'Pray for when Elbert no longer has to light candles' PAGE 2
Beilida supervisor gets 18-month prison term. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

Torres welcomes CW bill re-introduction in House

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres welcomed a veteran congressman's plan to re-introduce an urgent legislation on the CW program extension as a way to go around a possible obstacle that is blocking the bill's passage in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In a letter dated May 19, 2018, Torres described U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop's (R-UT) willingness to introduce legislation to rectify the parliamentary problem with Sen. Lisa Murkowski's S. 2325 as "welcoming news."

Over the weekend, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced that they would be pushing for a U.S. House version of the S. 2325, inclusive of U.S. Senate amendments, after the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee brought up monetary concerns in the bill, which originated in the U.S. Senate.

"The Senate passed the Murkowski bill with a number of amendments on April 23, [2018]. One of the Senate amendments, an anti-fraud fee that employers must pay, is the source of the parliamentary problem in the House," Sablan said in a statement.

Among other things, S. 2325

See TORRES on Page 4

5 hurt in SUV, truck collision

Five persons were injured when a blue sports utility vehicle being driven by an alleged drunk driver collided with a Toyota Tacoma truck along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road near Mangosix in Dandan Thursday night.

The driver of the SUV, Patrick Castro, 24, was arrested and cited with driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, and having an open container in the vehicle.

Castro and his two passengers, who were also intoxicated,

See 5 HURT on Page 4

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres with Skymark Airlines president Masahiko Ichie shake hands on Friday evening after signing the memorandum of understanding between the CNMI and Skymark Airlines.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Skymark to launch direct flights to Japan

On Friday, May 18, 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Skymark Airlines officially agreed to launch direct flights between the CNMI and Japan during the upcoming winter schedule.

Skymark Airlines is Japan's third largest carrier headquartered at Haneda Airport in Tokyo and will be the first Japan-based carrier in the CNMI since 2005, when Japan Airlines closed its Saipan office.

"I am pleased to announce that Skymark Airlines will be launching flights between Japan and Saipan later this year," Torres said.

This marks a monumental breakthrough for the Japan tourism market for several reasons. First, Haneda is Tokyo's premier airport, located

See SKYMARK on Page 4

Bomb threat causes massive traffic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tenants at the Torres Brothers Building in Garapan were evacuated from the building after its front desk allegedly received a bomb threat Friday afternoon.

» No explosive found

No explosive device was found, but the bomb scare snarled traffic on Chalan Pale Arnold for an hour as officers re-routed the traffic flow while clearing operation was being done.

Shortly before authorities reported "all clear," police officers were seen across the Torres Brothers building interviewing some employees of the law office on the ground floor

See BOMB on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
IT&E opened doors to its newest retail store last Friday in Sinapalo, Rota.

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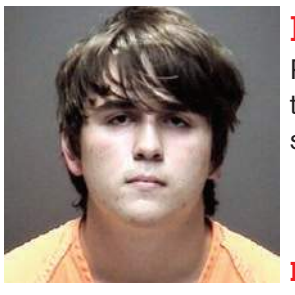

NATION
Police search for motive in Texas school shooting.

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LIFE & STYLE
The son of British royalty and the daughter of middle-class Americans wed Saturday.

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Local

AT MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

‘Pray for when Elbert no longer has to light candles’

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By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Monsignor James L.G. Benavente visited last Friday the public school bus pavilion in As Teo where sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk were last seen in the morning of May 25, 2011. A tiny shrine has been erected at the pavilion, visible as one drives up from the street. Benavente, who went there to pray for the missing sisters, saw candles at the little shrine. Elbert Quitugua told him that he’s been lighting candles there since his two granddaughters went missing seven years ago.

During a Mass of Remembrance for the Luhk sisters last Saturday at the St. Jude Church in Koblerville at 11am, Benavente urged everyone to “pray for the day when Elbert [Quitugua] will no longer have to light any more candles for his granddaughters.”

Benavente, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s chaplain for Guam and Saipan, was joined at the Mass by

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Msgr. James Benavente, extreme right, and Deacon Estanislao Benavente join Elbert Quitugua and his family in a group photo after the Mass of Remembrance for the missing sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk at the St. Jude Church in Koblerville last Saturday before noon. The Luhk sisters mysteriously disappeared near their home in As Teo on May 25, 2011.

Quitugua and his family, some relatives and friends, and FBI special agent Haejun Park.

“St. Jude isn’t the church of the lights, but if it were already dark, this church would have brightened up, not because we brought our individual lanterns or candles with us, but because we have come from every corner of this island, with the light of Christ shining deep within us, desiring to shed light in the midst of darkness,” Benavente, who was the Mass’ guest homilist, said.

He believes that God’s justice will prevail in due time.

“We know that….but, we also seek justice that will bring peace and comfort to Faloma and Maleina’s family, sooner, instead of later,” he said.

Benavente said when people do something wrong or do something bad, they try to hide it, yet it bothers them, even though they believe they’re doing a good job in hiding it.

See PRAY on Page 4

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CHCC to educate NMI athletes on health threats

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is making sure that all members of the CNMI delegation are vaccinated before leaving for the Micronesian Games in Yap in early July.

Yap's Department of Health Services recently released a mumps alert travel advisory a few months before they host the ninth edition of the quadrennial Micro Games from July 15 to 27.

CHCC public information officer Samantha Birmingham-Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* that they are working to ensure that delegation members will receive all vital information less than two months before the opening of the Micro Games.

"[This is] with emphasis on ensuring vaccinations such as MMR—which protects against measles, mumps, and rubella. Details are still in the works. [CHCC] will release a statement once finalized and confirmed between our agencies and the Micro Games delegation," said Birmingham-Babauta.

She added that they are encouraging all athletes and officials to get vaccinated before leaving. "Micro Games participants will be encouraged during the health education and travel guidance event to visit their private provider or our Immunization Program to make sure their shots are up to date or get vaccinated as need," she said.

She also clarified the CNMI does not test off-island visitors upon arrival. "Such testing upon arrival is not a practice here or any other jurisdiction."

Yap athletes are due to arrive on Saipan next month as part of the delegation from the Federated States of Micronesia for the 2018 Oceania Micronesian Athletics Championships.

Yap's DHS reported confirmed cases of the mumps virus in Yap, including the outer islands of Falalop and Woleai. Chuuk State, also in the FSM, along with Hawaii, New Zealand, and Vanuatu also has similar mumps cases.

Yap's DPH has advised those who are going to attend the Micro Games and would be visiting the islands to make sure they are immunized to protect them from the virus.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed half-day today

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. will be closed today, May 21, 2018, from 8am to 1:30pm for professional development. ***(PR)***

Military trainings

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the following locations during the dates and times indicated:

- Former Adm. Nimitz golf course: May 21 from 9am to 11:55pm
- Warning Area 517: May 21-23 from 9am to 10pm
- Farallon de Medinilla: May 21 and 23 from 9am to 9pm.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur throughout the week in areas of the former Adm. Nimitz golf course and Andersen South.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

It is recommended the general public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. ***(PR)***

Call for submissions:

Memorial Day tribute

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan invites veterans, service members, military family members, and members of the community to participate in a special Memorial Day video tribute honoring the men and women who have died while serving in the nation's armed forces, as well as those who passed away after service. Photographs, videos, and visual artwork rare welcome. Submissions will be accepted up to May 23, and should include the names, dates of birth and death, branch of service, rank, unit, any operation or conflict served, as well as a brief message of remembrance, up to 75 words. For more information, or to submit a tribute, contact Wounded Warrior Fellow Randy Johnson at randy.johnson@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647. ***(PR)***

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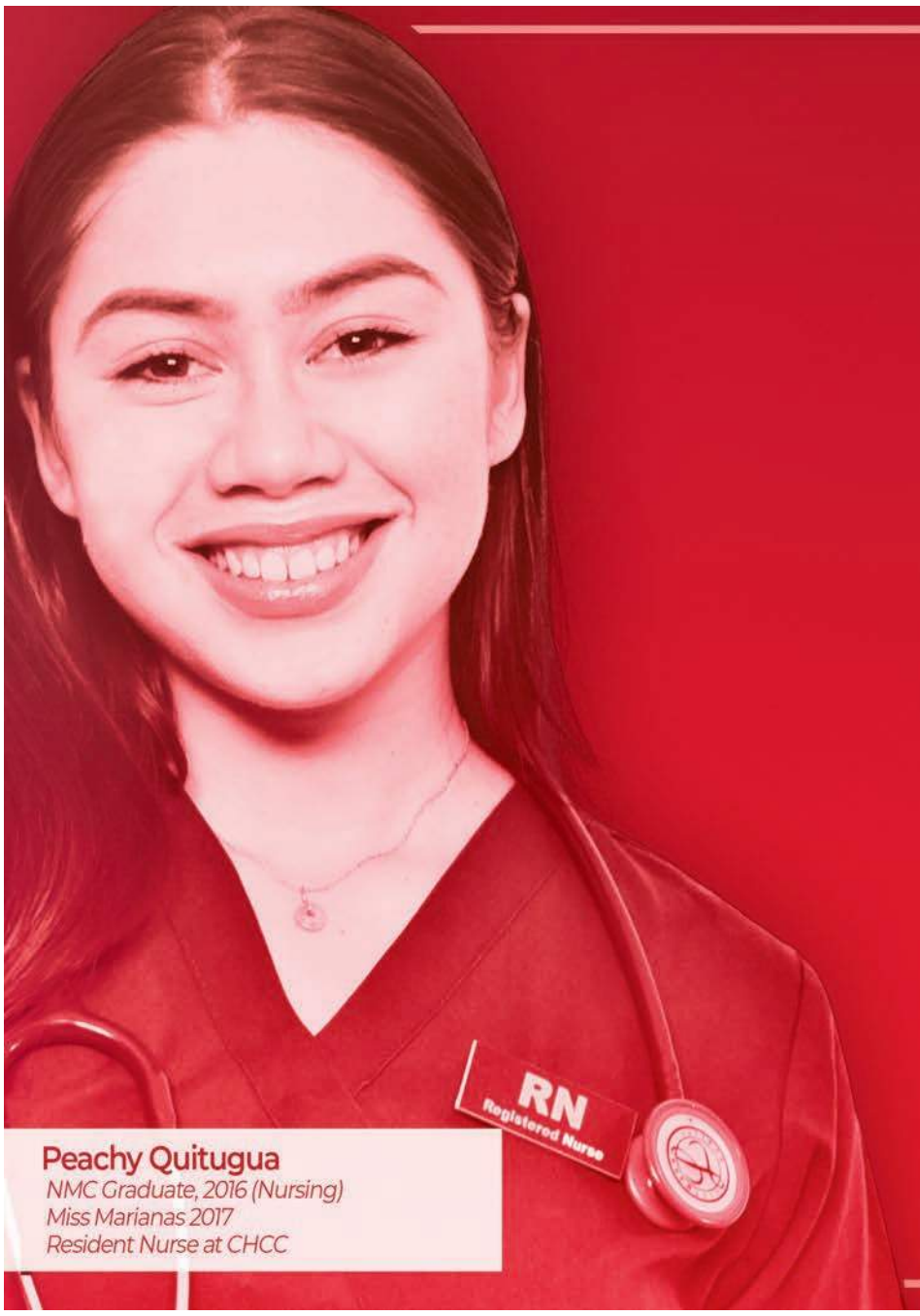

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Beilida supervisor gets 18-month prison term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The male supervisor of Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd., was sentenced Friday to one year and six months in prison for harboring illegal workers who worked on the casino and resort project of Pacific Imperial International CNMI LLC in Garapan.

Wencai Guo, 45, was given credit for time served and ordered to pay a $5,000 fine and $100 in court assessment fee.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona exonerated the $10,000 cash bail that Guo posted for his temporary release and applied the amount to pay for the $5,000 fine and $100 assessment fee.

Robert T. Torres, counsel for Guo, later said they appreciate that the court is concerned about the seriousness of the offense of harboring unlawful aliens and exposing the workers to harm.

Torres said they also appreciate that the court recognized that Guo is a person of good character and that he didn't want to harm these workers.

Torres had pushed for a sentence of eight months of time served. "We appreciate the fair consideration today and Mr. Guo is glad that it is over and someday soon he will return home to his family," Torres said.

Guo is a Chinese national.

Manglona was initially inclined to impose the high end in the sentence but imposed the mid-range of 18 months instead because of Guo's situation, his assistance to investigators, and acceptance of responsibility.

The sentence range was 15 months to 21 months of imprisonment.

Manglona believes that Guo is sincere and that she reviewed his background contained in the pre-sentence investigation report prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

Manglona said she finds that Guo did not intend to do criminal conduct on Saipan, but was put in a situation, according to his lawyer.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto had recommended the low end of 15 months imprisonment.

Manglona granted Benedetto's motion to dismiss the remaining charges as well as the criminal complaint as part of the plea deal.

Manglona said Guo received $4,000 in monthly salary, which is big amount in China and in the CNMI.

The judge said the big salary was hard for the defendant to resist.

Guo broke into tears when he spoke in court and mentioned that his wife and their three children have been waiting for him in China.

"I sincerely apologize for my behavior," said Guo through an interpreter.

He said he was involved and participated in harboring illegal workers.

He said the unlawful workers were not paid U.S. law and benefits.

He said he only tried to protect his countrymen.

"I sincerely apologize," Guo said.

He said feel sorry for Yuanhou Yu, a worker who died from a fall at the construction site, and his family.

Guo said he was not the one who hired the unlawful workers.

Torres said there was a necessity to expedite the project and hundreds of Beilida workers were employed, but really the purpose of employment was to work at the Imperial Pacific Casino Resort construction site.

Torres said there was the pressure to complete the project and that Guo had to do it or risk retribution or go home.

Torres said that during the death of Yu, Guo was not on duty and was not responsible for Yu's death, although he was part of the team that was responsible for exposing harm to the workers.

Torres said Guo accepted responsibility, pleaded guilty, and assisted investigators in the investigation of the case.

Last September, Guo pleaded guilty to count 2 of the indictment charging him with harboring illegal aliens.

Benedetto said that, between Feb. 7, 2017, and March 22, 2017, Guo supervised over 100 workers at the Best Sunshine casino project.

Benedetto said at least 24 aliens were overstaying their parole status.

Benedetto said the aliens, who were admitted to the U.S. or the CNMI as tourists, were not authorized to work.

Benedetto said Guo knew that at least 24 under his supervision were overstaying tourists.

The prosecutor said in a search by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the offices of Beilida, the FBI discovered spreadsheets in Chinese titled "Beilida Complete Personnel Accommodation Statistics Chart," which listed over 150 workers as *hei gong*, a term to mean "undocumented worker."

Benedetto said Guo knew that there were inspectors such as Occupational Safety and Health Administration that would visit the construction site from time to time.

He said Guo would tell his team leaders or lieutenants that they should not come to work for a couple of days to avoid being detected by authorities at the site.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PRAY

From Page 2

"It's not until we get if off our chest that we feel better. We feel better because what we kept in darkness has finally been brought to light, and this, we feel relieved, and that's because the burden that held us down, the burden that once imprisoned us, no longer has power over us," he said.

Benavente said they want the Luhk sisters and their family to know that they are not and have not been forgotten.

He prayed for someone to shed light on the sisters' disappearance, that they come forward.

"Equally important, we're also here to pray that God continue to strengthen Faloma and Maleina's family whose hearts have carried such a heavy burden in the midst of their silent suffering," Benavente said.

In an interview after the Mass, Quitugua it was very touching and that Benavente came over from Guam just for the Mass.

Deacon Estanislao Benavente substituted for Fr. James Balajadia, who was not feeling well, for the Mass.

Quitugua said the Mass was done in collaboration with the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Benavente, and the FBI.

There will be another Mass this Friday in Kagman.

Quitugua said searching for his granddaughters for seven years now has been stressful. "This is a never-ending search for my granddaughters," he said.

Quitugua said the FBI and the local police, however, have assured the family that, although this is a cold case, the investigation is continuing.

"They are still doing it constantly. They're not going to stop," he said.

FBI spokesperson Michele M. Ernst told *Saipan Tribune* last Wednesday that the FBI remains committed to working with the CNMI Department of Public Safety to search for the missing sisters.

The sisters' disappearance enters its seventh year this Friday.

Faloma and Maleina, if they are still alive, will be 16 and 17 years old now.

TORRES

From Page 1

would extend the CW-1 program beyond its slated sunset date of Dec. 31, 2019.

In the letter to Bishop, Torres reiterated the urgency of the CW extension, especially after news that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has had all of their CW-1 nurse petitions rejected.

"Most worrisome is that the hospital had 100 percent of its CW-1 nursing staff denied, which would result in the loss of more than 120 nurses, nurse supervisors, and nurse managers. As the start of the new fiscal year approaches, I have serious concerns of the viability in our islands healthcare system if no action is achieved in the coming weeks," Torres wrote to Bishop.

Torres said in a separate statement that his relationship with Bishop remains healthy as the U.S. congressman assured the governor back in February of his assistance and expedited passage of the bill.

"The discussions have been fruitful, and while the timelines have been pushed back, the relationships I have personally made with Chairman Bishop and Chairman Murkowski will ensure that we will have legislation passed that protects and develops U.S. workers, acknowledges our long-term guest workers, and strengthens existing safeguards against bad actors in our economy," Torres said in a statement.

According to a statement from Sablan announcing that Bishop would be pushing for the re-introduction of the legislation to prevent parliamentary problems, "by introducing the bill anew in the House…we avoid the origination clause problem."

According to the U.S. Constitution, only the House can come up with revenue-generating legislation and the U.S. House Parliamentarian ruled that the anti-fraud fee as introduced in S. 2325 is considered revenue.

"We are keeping the anti-fraud fee, however," said Sablan. "A major feature of the U.S. Workforce Act [S.2325] is to crack down on 'bad actor' businesses that abuse the CW system and foreign workers," he added.

5 HURT

From Page 1

were injured.

The driver and passenger of the Toyota Tacoma were also injured.

All five were taken to the Commonwealth Health Center and later released, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard.

Shepard said that DPS dispatch first received several calls regarding a reckless driver near Transamerica on Thursday at 7:26pm.

Shepard said that, according to witnesses, the SUV being driven by Castro was on the eastbound inner lane, when it swerved into oncoming westbound traffic, colliding with a white Tacoma near Mangosix.

Both vehicles had extensive damage. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BOMB

From Page 1

of the three-story building. The other tenants of the building were also evacuated while authorities were scouring the building for any bomb.

Derek Gersonde, spokesman of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, said that DPS 911 reported a bomb threat at the Torres Brothers building at 4:31pm.

Firefighters and hazardous materials personnel were dispatched to the scene.

Gersonde said the Commonwealth Ports Authority Police Explosives K9 reported the "all clear" at the building at 5:10pm.

A tenant told *Saipan Tribune* that it was a female front desk employee who received the bomb threat.

"When I came, there was a huge traffic and there were a lot of officers," the tenant said.

There was no information available as to what the caller specifically stated in the call.

The staff of Torres Brothers law firm refused to comment. They reported back to their office after police told them that everything was clear.

As of yesterday, DPS has yet to release information about the incident.

SKYMARK

From Page 1

minutes from downtown Tokyo, making it easier for Tokyo's immense population of 37 million people to have the opportunity to travel to the CNMI. It is the fourth busiest airport in the world, making the CNMI more accessible for travelers from around the world.

Importantly, Torres said, this marks the re-entry of a Japan-based carrier to the CNMI, marking a significant achievement in the CNMI's historic relations with Japan

"We have committed to fully support Skymark's flights and will look to them as our long-term partner for the Japan market," Torres said.

Torres recognized and thanked the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and various community partners for their collaboration during the process.

"I thank MVA, CPA, and our other agencies for their due diligence in ensuring Skymark's investments in the CNMI will be protected to ensure long-term viability of their flights. I also want to thank the Consulate Office of Japan and our business community, particularly our long-time Japanese companies and partners for their collaboration and advice. The CNMI commits our full support to Skymark as they establish the Tokyo-Saipan route as their first regular scheduled flight outside Japan. This will be an exciting addition for our islands moving forward," Torres added.

In late February, Torres and MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion met with several Japan market stakeholders to underscore the importance of the historical Japan market and the plans to revitalize it moving forward. In early May, Torres disclosed the progress in the talks between the CNMI and Skymark Airlines. This resulted with the signing of a memorandum of understanding by Torres and Skymark Airines president Masahiko Ichie on Friday evening.

"We are pleased to welcome president and representative director Mr. Ichie and executive director and executive officer Mr. Motohashi to the Marianas. We are excited about their plans for the CNMI and look forward to a very fruitful partnership in the years ahead. The Marianas Visitors Authority offers our full support to Skymark Airlines. We anticipate a flight launch later this year so we are very excited," Concepcion said.

"Our community is making great strides, and I will make sure we will continue to leverage the resources we have for the Japanese market for a more diverse visitor market. We are excited about this partnership with Skymark for our community moving forward," Torres said.

"The MVA thanks Gov. Torres and his administration for their continual support of the Japan market and of MVA's ongoing efforts to create a diverse visitor pool. Their commitment to utilize all available resources to revitalize this key market is welcome news for all of us here in The Marianas," Concepcion added. ***(PR)***

Birth tourism defendant gets 1 year in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An overstaying Chinese tourist who pleaded guilty to running an business that offered trip packages to pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth on Saipan was sentenced Friday in federal court to 12 months and one day in prison.

Sen Sun was given credit for time already served in prison and was ordered to pay a $1,000 fine and $100 in court assessment fee.

After his prison term, Sun will be deported.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dropped the remaining two charges—unlawfully employing aliens and money laundering—as part of the plea deal.

Benjamin Petersburg served as counsel for Sun.

Last Dec. 8, Sun, also known as Sam Sun, signed a plea deal with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty to harboring illegal aliens.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of not more than five years of imprisonment, a fine of not more than $250,000, not more than a five-year term of probation, and a $1,000 special assessment.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley stated that between Jan. 1, 2017, and Nov. 3, 2017, Sun ran an unregistered, and therefore illegal, business operation arranging travel, medical, and other services to pregnant foreign citizens seeking to give birth in the NMI.

Citing the basis of the case, O'Malley said each of Sun's clients paid upward of $15,000 for this service that included a full-time assistant or nanny, namely the 15 alien workers, who would, among other things, cook, clean, and provide basic care for his clients.

O'Malley said Sun employed the 15 workers knowing they were aliens who were not authorized to work in the U.S.

O'Malley said the workers lived with Sun's clients in apartments and other accommodations paid for by defendant via his illegal business operation.

The prosecutor said despite his knowledge that the workers had entered or remaining unlawfully in the U.S., Sun harbored them and concealed them from detection by providing them with accommodations, employing them, and advising them to avoid contact with immigration and other law enforcement authorities.

Sun agreed with O'Malley's statements, but clarified that he got only a portion of the $15,000 each from the clients as the amount paid for many services.

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77 earn Latin honors in NMC graduation

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Northern Marianas College students move their tassels on their mortarboards, marking their official graduation in last Saturday's 38th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

A total of 77 graduates earned Latin honors in various degrees conferred at the 38th Commencement Exercise of the Northern Marianas College last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Of the 257 degrees conferred, 10 were earned with summa cum laude honors, the highest award in academic excellence, while 23 were earned with magna cum laude and 44 had cum laude honors. Four of the 10 summa cum laude honorees earned Associate in Liberal Arts degrees led by Siha Ahn.

Maia D. Pangelinan, David B. Phan, and Yijia Zhao joined Ahn in being conferred Liberal Arts degrees, while Patrick Cloyd L. Agustin, Do Hyeon Kwo, and Lizelle Kathleen C. Lim duplicated the feat in Business Administration with Accounting Emphasis.

Renedel Christian U. Buna and Glory Nina T. Legaspi were the summa cum laude honorees in BA in Computer Applications, while Agustin earned his second degree with the same Latin honor, this time with Business emphasis. Josephine N. Estrada was the lone summa cum laude graduate in Criminal Justice. NMC's first president, Dr. Catherine "Kit" Porter Van Meter, was the keynote speaker. She told the graduates that it's not the view of others what's important. "On your new path as a college graduate you will have to know when to be confident in your own knowledge of who you are."

"You will need to decide when to follow the opinion others have of you…and you will need to let people help you find your path along the way—people who have already walked where you want to walk," she added. Current NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez congratulated all graduates on their remarkable achievement. "All of you have worked hard to earn you degrees and we join your families in expressing tremendous pride for this important accomplishment." "I know your journey to graduation has not always been an easy one. And we applaud each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment to your academic goals, your persistence through obstacles, and for the years of hard work and perseverance that you have invested into earning your college degree."

Those who earned magna cum laude honors were Laurea Jena P. Briosos and Marchie Frank Fernandez (in Business); Byong Ha Kim, Cheonsu Kim, Rita Ramona S. Lifoifoi, Michael T. Santos (Liberal Arts); Sol Lee, Trina Lyn G. Santos, and Lin Zhou (AA in Education); Kimberly Mae DLC Magno and Jordan R. Pangilinan (Business Administration with Accounting and Business Management Emphasis); Angelray T. Guerrero, Harold Christopher L. Omotoy, and Jesse Ray D. Salalila (BA Computer Applications Emphasis); Sean Benedict C. Palma (Hospitality Management); Jarrod T. Manglona (Criminal Justice); Dianne Marie J. Pablo (Natural Resources Management); Elizabeth Joy A. Solito, Francis Darell Q. Tomokane, and Keisuke Yoshida (Business Management); Patricia Z. Cortez and Shin-ha Sheena Kang Saures (Elementary Education); and Celina Kyna S. Biado (Rehabilitation & Human Services).

BOE meets to act on initiatives, funding plans

The governing and policymaking body of the Public School System, the CNMI Board of Education, met last Wednesday, May 16, to act on several initiatives and funding/grant proposals. These are critical to the continued implementation of services to the over 10,000 Early Head Start, Head Start, and elementary, middle and high school students receiving free public education services on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

PSS
Education Commissioner Glenn Muña, Board of Education members Florine Hoschneider of Tinian, Herman Atalig of Rota, and board chair MaryLou S. Ada listen to PSS Federal Program officer Tim Thornburgh, foreground.

PSS
Federal Programs officer Tim Thorburgh presents the school district's proposed $16.86 million Consolidated Grant for School Year 2018-2019 as Board of Education chair MaryLou S. Ada listens intently.

PSS
Board of Education vice chair Janice Marie A. Tenorio and BOE member Herman T. Guerrero confer with each other.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-020

REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF ENGINES 8 AND 4 AT POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, of the removal of the engine frame and alternator assemblies from its foundation, dismantling and further relocation to a designated location as detailed in the bid documents. Both engines have been partially dismantled by the plant personnel.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC power plant Conference Room. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-020 - Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 31, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Judiciary AC is temporarily fixed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 22-year-old air-conditioning system at the House of Justice or Guma Hustisia building in Susupe was temporarily fixed a few weeks ago, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

The building has been closed to the public for over two months now.

Sources said the air inside the building still needs further testing, though, while ongoing cleanup from mold is ongoing.

Sources disclosed that the Judiciary's maintenance, assisted by JWS Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Ltd., temporarily fixed the air-conditioning system until a new one can be installed.

As of press time Thursday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from the Judiciary.

As the repair is only temporary, the air-conditioning system can break anytime again, sources said.

The temporary fix is why some court employees are still working inside the courthouse.

The building's re-opening to the public remains uncertain as the Judiciary needs an estimated $7 million to replace the main air-conditioning system and to get rid of the mold.

» Building closed for over 2 months now

Last April 18, CNMI Judiciary director of courts Sonia A. Camacho stated that their goal is to reopen the House of Justice at the earliest time possible.

"Reopening depends on a working air-conditioning system and remediating the mold in the building," Camacho said.

The courts director disclosed that the current estimated budget to replace the air-conditioning system is $4.4 million and $2.6 million for mold remediation.

The building has remained closed to the public since last March 16.

Last March 27, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Bureau of Environmental Health confirmed the presence of mold in the building.

Mold remediation efforts include replacing carpeting in courtrooms and offices, digitizing affected documents and files, replacing acoustics wall panels in the courtrooms and acoustical ceiling boards, retaining industrial hygienist professionals, and other measures.

Camacho said the Judiciary has been collaborating with both the Legislature and Executive Branch to secure funding.

Camacho said the main air-conditioning system is over 22 years old and that for such equipment to last beyond its estimated useful life, with the unrelenting tropical elements, is a testament that the Judiciary has taken extraordinary measures over the years.

The Judiciary has extended the limited and restricted access to certain employees, while alternative work sites have been created to limit entrance into the building.

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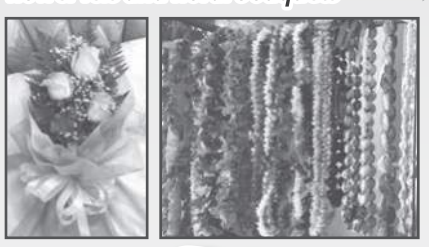

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Torres to make appointments to CEC board

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will be making a couple of appointments in the next few days to fill up the vacant positions at the Commonwealth Election Commission's board.

In an interview on Tuesday, Torres said he will be working on both Saipan and Tinian appointments.

"I will be appointing actually a couple this week," the governor said. He did not elaborate.

Last Feb. 16, Donald M. Hofschneider, of Tinian, resigned as CEC member and vice chairman pro tem, leaving CEC with only five commissioners.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez earlier stated it is critical to have at least five commissioners because if one remaining member from Tinian will not show up at a board meeting, there will be no quorum.

The next election will be this Nov. 6.

Hofschneider's third four-year term as commissioner representing Tinian and Aguiguan is supposedly to expire on Oct. 18, 2020.

The remaining commissioner representing Tinian and Aguiguan is Joseph E. Santos.

At present, commissioner Jesus Sablan, of Saipan, has been serving as CEC chairman pro tempore since Frances Sablan's term expired last August.

Jesus Sablan's four-year term, however, will expire on Oct. 27, 2018.

Patricia Mareham has joined as commissioner representing Carolinians of Saipan. There are still three vacant positions for Saipan and Northern Islands.

Rota has two commissioners: Leilanie Manglona and Esther Yatar.

IT&E celebrates the grand opening of it store on May 18 in Sinapalo. From left, Natashia Tomokane, Marketing Services supervisor; Janice Tenorio, manager of Customer Service; Rose Soledad, general manager; Jim Oehlerking, CEO; Mayor Efraim Atalig of Rota; Anthony Barcinas, vice chairman of the Rota Municipal Council; Angela Rosario, director of Marketing & Product Development; and Fr. John Manglona. IT&E

IT&E cuts the ribbon on the new public playground at the Sinapalo Children's Park. From left, Rose Soledad, general manager of IT&E; Anthony Barcinas, vice chairman of the Rota Municipal Council; Jim Oehlerking, CEO of IT&E; Mayor Efraim Atalig of Rota; Angela Rosario, director of Marketing & Product Development of IT&E; and Janice Tenorio, manager of Customer Service of IT&E. IT&E

IT&E opens Rota branch, playground

SINAPALO, Rota—IT&E opened doors to its newest retail store last Friday in Sinapalo, Rota.

Located in the Sinapalo Safeway Building, the store showcases a wide range of today's phones. The 350-square-foot space introduces new visual elements. The store's interior includes elements of the company's signature cobalt blue with images of IT&E's promise of delivering connections, as well as interactive displays and areas for customers. Store hours are 8am to 11am and 1pm to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

"As a brand with strong roots throughout the Marianas, it's a natural place for us to introduce a retail experience that brings our new brand to life," said Danny Daniel, senior manager of Brand & Public Relations. "We're so excited for the community to see the first retail store with our new look."

Until May 25, customers who activate service on the $50-a-month plan or higher will receive a free Bluetooth speaker while supplies last.

IT&E and the Mayor's Office of Rota also cut the ribbon for the Sinapalo's Children's Park playground. The installation of the playground was made possible through a partnership between IT&E and the Rota Mayor's Office. IT&E donated the playground equipment and the Rota Mayor's Office installed the equipment.

"Giving back to the communities we serve is an important part of our new brand," said Angela Rosario, director of Marketing & Product Development. "We're excited that the children in our community now have a new and accessible playground that allows families to enjoy the natural beauty of Rota."

IT&E has been delivering connections in the CNMI for over 35 years. It serves more than 90,000 subscribers on Guam and in the Marianas. ***(PR)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE
May 21, 2018

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Roll Call
  B. Adoption of Agenda
  C. Adoption of Minutes
    1. April 6, 2018
    2. April 26, 2018
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's Report
    1. Administrative/Personnel Matters
    2. Loan Matters
      a. Judgment Debts
      b. Loan Pay-Off
      c. Set-Aside Accrued Interest
    3. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters
  B. Comptroller's Report
  C. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Housing Financing
  B. Micronesia Challenge
  C. CNMI State Bank Bill
  D. Saipan Credit Union
  E. Technology Industry
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. CPA Resolution
  B. Agricultural Fair & Fishermen's Derby
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ DAVID S. DEMAPAN
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) CNMI Chapter invites you to earn up to 8 hours of CPE credits.

Topics to discuss:
- Various Characteristics of the Fraudster
- Ethics and AICPA Integrity/Independence Update
- Leadership and Effective Teams
- Effective Writing for Accountants and Auditors
- Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz - Fraud in Government

Venue: Hyatt Regency Saipan (Regency Ballroom)
Date: June 8, 2018
Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Registration Fee: $175.00 Per Person Including Lunch

To register please contact Juvilyn Sablan @ 670-322-7337 or email jsablan@deloitte.com or glendacabrera@deloitte.com

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Attorney for Administrator
Nicanor F. Norita

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VISITACION RANGAMAR FLORES, Deceased.

Civil Action No.: 03-0228D

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRS

TO: ALL HEIRS OF VISITACION RANGAMAR FLORES, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Determination of Heirs for the ESTATE OF VISTACION RANGAMAR FLORES (DECEASED) was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter. The hearing would normally be held in the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. However, due to issues with the Court House the hearing will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, at **9:00 a.m., on May 24, 2018.**

You may obtain a copy of the Petition from the Administrator's counsel during normal business hours. You may also obtain a copy from the Court. If you believe you are an heir, and if you are not listed on the Petition, it is very important for you to appear at the hearing and assert your claim as an heir.

Dated this 4th day of May, 2018.

Michael W. Dotts
Counsel for Administrator

2-time winner Mersai leads CGC contest winners

JON PEREZ

Community Guidance Center director Nadine Sablan, right, joins her staff and the four students that won in their National Prevention Week art contest in Thursday's ceremony at their new office at the second floor of the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William S. Reyes Elementary School student Narhya Mersai has enjoyed drawing since she learned how to pick up crayons. The doors and walls of their house were Mersai's first canvas, according to her mom Katherine, a second-grade teacher at WSR.

"She loves to draw. … You can see scribbles and drawings in our home. On the walls and doors. She also creates cards that she gives to us whenever there are special events," said the elder Mersai with a laugh.

Mersai, now a fifth grader, has parlayed that talent to good use after becoming a back-to-back winner in the Community Guidance Center National Prevention Week art contest. She led three other winners for Saipan, with Rota and Tinian having their own set.

"Someday I would like to be an artist, but I also have other things in mind," said Mersai.

Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, one of three Grace Christian Academy students in the Top 4, also joined last year but wasn't lucky. Now, she's pleased that her artwork was chosen among the winners.

"I'm not sure if I'm a good artist but I love to draw. I want to tell other kids like me that, instead of drinking alcohol, chewing tobacco, and using drugs, there are a lot of things that you can do to get better," said Pagaduan, who is also a fifth grader.

"You don' have to struggle and have something better to do. There are more things that you could learn to be better," added the daughter of Nelson and Eucele of Navy Hill.

Eighth grader Tommy Aldan and third grader Maria Gomez, who are also both from GCA, were the other winners from Saipan.

Rota and Tinian will be having their own Top 4 winners, which CGC staff will also be awarding.

A total of 37 entries from public and private school students, from Kindergarten to eighth grade, joined the contest where high school students served as judges.

The Top 4 received arts supplies, a Bluetooth speaker, a power bank, a portable bag, and a flash drive aside from certificates.

CGC prevention specialist Charnessa Lizama said the ultimate prize is having the artwork included in a daily planner. "CGC will be having a student planner for next year where all of the artworks will be included."

"All 12 artworks, also from Rota and Tinian, will be in the planner that will have substance abuse prevention tips," she added.

CGC director Nadine Sablan, clinical services officer Dr. Glenda George, prevention services manager Jeffrey Tomokane, project coordinator Kimberly Tudela, social marketing assistant Joe Ada, and 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera joined Lizama in giving out the prizes to the winners.

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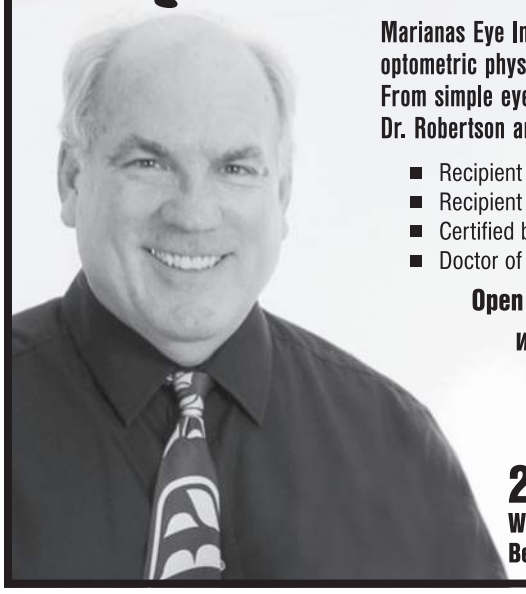

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Tougher work rules for food stamps won't help poor people—or save much money

RICHARD B. LEVINE/SIPA USA/TNS
A sign in front of a 7-Eleven in New York announces that the convenience store accepts SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), on October 20, 2012.

Unemployment is at a record low. The U.S. economy has logged nine straight years of slow-but-steady growth. Yet somehow, 40 million Americans need help from the government just to put food on the table. Although that figure is down from its post-recession peak of 47.6 million in 2013, it's still far above where it was in 2007, when only 26 million Americans were enrolled in food stamps (formally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

Congressional Republicans are right to believe that there's something terribly out of whack here. How can so many Americans have jobs yet so many still qualify for food stamps? But their solution—adding tougher work requirements to the program—rests on a faulty premise that people are gaming the system, rather than the reality that so many of the jobs added since the recession are low-wage. If they succeed in imposing the new eligibility rules, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that it will force 1.2 million Americans out of SNAP by 2028—most of them parents with school-aged children. What a callous and

See TOUGHER on Page 13

Making my home the best it can be

By KELVIN WOLF
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Kelvin Wolf is a student at Marianas High School. The following is the text of his speech at the Attorney General Cup speech competition last May 4.

I remember when I was in Kindergarten, singing the lines of our national anthem that go, "…the land of the free, and the home of the brave…" But growing up, I did not feel at home nor did I feel free, and as for being brave, well…

I grew up constantly reminded I am Filipino. And it wasn't because I was proud of my culture; it was the fact that I was constantly reminded that I am not Chamorro.

Of course, in my youthful ignorance, it was impossible for me to realize the causalities of the racial tensions that surround so many of us. Reasons were presented to me, as I grew older. And there was, to be fair, a certain logic to those reasons. The reasons…?

Early insular legislation paved the way for persons of Northern Marianas descent to recover a degree of sovereignty after centuries of colonization. Article 12 allowed an even larger degree of flexibility to locals to preserve the unique culture and history of the Northern Marianas.

But, by continuing to distinguish between "NMD" and "non-NMD" we are effectively relegating entire populations to second-class status—populations many of which call and have long called the CNMI home.

The thousands of residents from so many different cultures and nations need to be accepted as worthy equals in our CNMI communities.

Centuries of colonization led the peoples of the Northern Marianas to willingly join with the United States in a defined political relationship. The Covenant with the United States speaks to that relationship and sets up a framework and a set of mandates as may be found in the Commonwealth's Constitution.

It did at one time make sense that, in deciding Article 12, the Ninth Circuit in *Wabol v. Villacrusis* stated: "There can be no doubt that land in the Commonwealth is a scarce and precious resource. Nor can the vital role native ownership of land plays in the preservation of NMI social and cultural stability be underestimated." That said…

clearly times have changed. Immigrants from all over the world have made the CNMI their home. On the one hand, the Insular [Cases Doctrine] legislation allows NMDs to preserve their culture; on the other, conflict and controversy have been their unintended consequence.

What the Insular Cases have created, in being the driving force behind Wabol and Article 12, is essentially a caste system. The advantaged class of citizens are those of Northern Marianas descent. The disadvantaged is the subordinated class of citizens, everyone else. NMDs and non-NMDs pay the same taxes, abide by the same laws, and yet are not availed of same rights.

As a result of this caste system, there is a strong sense of "us versus them." Article 12, and thus the rules governing NMD, perpetuate the reality that everyone not of NMD are "foreigners." And that the land must "belong only to me, the NMD, and no one else." This stigmatization has created significant tension and sadly, virulent racism.

A childhood memory is exemplary of my argument. In my childhood, I discovered a badly scribbled bit of graffiti on the side of San Jose Mart. It read, "Go home, alien." In my childish innocence, I thought it was the resistance fighting off Martians. But no, it was just hate speech perpetrated by a local.

Many times I've witnessed Filipino and Chinese people treated with aggression simply because their blood is not that of a local. Even to the extent of, and I quote this directly from a death threat, "I can do it if I want, I'm Chamorro." An island strictly for one race is the surest way for a culture to fade. Homogeneity contradicts American values, especially in an era of globalization.

In the face of the second-class citizenship that I was born with, I now urge that I be accorded the same rights every person of Northern Marianas descent in this room has.

One scholar has noted per the D.C. Circuit's decision on American Samoan U.S. citizenship: "As the forgotten story of noncitizen nationals shows…on the one hand, they are treated like citizens. …They have a right to enter and reside and work in the United States indefinitely. On the other hand, they are treated as noncitizens: They do not have the right to vote, to serve on juries, to bear arms, or to apply for certain federal and state jobs."

"The origin of this secondary status may be traced to a line of early 20th century Supreme Court cases known as the Insular Cases."

What is to prevent the federal government from extending this subordination to the CNMI?

See MAKING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Keep the torch of culture alive

By ELLA EUSEBIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Ella Eusebio is a student at Kagman High School. The following is the text of her speech at the Attorney General Cup speech competition last May 4.

Latte stone quarries, coral reefs, Mt. Tapochau, flame trees, and the maas. These are some of the variables that make our islands beautiful. The reasons why we have a paradise at the palm of our hands. A golden treasure. Their vacation place is what we proudly call home. But what if I tell you that all of this will be taken away from you? From all of us? That my generation is the last generation to ever see the full potential of its beauty. What would you do?

We are so wrapped up in a cocoon of safety. We are hidden away from the acquisitive eyes of others that we have become comfortable with the idea of having this forever. Except that, there are so many challenges, decisions to make and risks to take before even getting close to this idea. One of these risks is the Insular Cases Doctrine. A fight between upholding the islands' riches or abandoning everything we have now.

The Insular Cases Doctrine in 1901 stated that the newly acquired territories from Spain were ruled under the U.S. Constitution by the Supreme Court but full constitutional rights did not automatically extend to all areas under American control or what they called "unincorporated territories." Today, these "unincorporated territories" include here, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

After World War II, the Northern Mariana Islands was placed under the control of the United States. In between 1969 and 1972, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, of which the Northern Marianas was a part of, began questioning its future with the United States. The United States then worked with the Northern Mariana Islands to establish a commonwealth that was approved by its people in 1975.

The United States and the Northern Marianas worked to create a unique relationship through the establishment of a Commonwealth Constitution, promoting a republican form of government on the islands and a Covenant signifying the bond between the U.S. and the Northern Mariana Islands.

It was not an easy process. There were issues and conflicts that needed to be addressed and resolved before the NMI fully became the CNMI. Because of this, the Insular Cases Doctrine was slowly applied to the CNMI.

The first large issue was the right to a jury trial that the Trust Territory had tried to make a guarantee in 1976, but ultimately failed. This issue came up again in 1984 with the NMI v. Atalig case in which the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Northern Mariana Islands, being a unincorporated territory, was not required to follow all aspects of the U.S. Constitution as stated in the Insular Cases Doctrine as the sixth amendment was not a "fundamental right."

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals also ruled in 1990 in Wabol v. Villacrusis that, under the Insular Cases Doctrine, landownership in the CNMI is sacred and cultural and not a "fundamental right." It is not about economic gain and that Section 4 of Article 12 of the Commonwealth Constitution that limits landownership to only NMI Chamorro or Carolinian descendants was legal.

The last major challenge to the legality of the Commonwealth Constitution and Covenant occurred in 1999 through the case of Rayphand v. Sablan. In this case the plaintiff argued that the CNMI was not following the one person, one vote concept required under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Ninth Circuit once again ruled that the "one person, one vote" concept was not a "basis of all free" government and that CNMI was legally allowed to give equal representation in the Senate to each of the main three islands.

The 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly defines what it means to be a U.S. citizen. It protects certain rights of people. This amendment can be divided into three different clauses: The Citizenship Clause, which states that people born in the United States are automatically U.S. citizens. The Due Process Clause, which ensures that all U.S. citizens are treated the same way in court. And the Equal Protection Clause, which guarantees the same rights, privileges and protections to all citizens. If the U.S. Constitution is fully applied to the CNMI, then the Insular Cases Doctrine has violated the 14th Amendment.

Even here in the CNMI, where the Covenant and Commonwealth Constitution have been upheld by the Ninth Circuit the three major times that it has been challenged, many here are conflicted of supporting or opposing the Insular Cases because of its violation of the 14th Amendment. Many of those who oppose the Doctrine believe it to be a reminder of colonialism that once ruled the world. Where one race is better than the other and has more rights and privileges, one such being the right to own land as here where ownership is restricted to indigenous people only. They believe that if the Doctrine was gone, we would be treated equal in the eyes of the U.S. and would be able to vote for the President. To have a real voice, but in turn we would lose the only protection we have for keeping our islands.

For opponents who question this, look east to Hawaii. It is a state that does not have the same protections as us but can vote for the President. It is tourist-friendly and promotes its culture to tourists through leis and luaus that stay in the expensive resorts. It seems like a place to be, but in reality the largest landowners are non-Hawaiians. Some even own entire islands. The native Hawaiians have lost their land and culture. The state has declared a statewide homeless emergency because its homeless rate is 50 people out of every 10,000 residents. This is double the homelessness rate in 43 other states. The people in Hawaii blame the poor "house placement" as the land is not owned by Native Hawaiians. Is that what we here in the CNMI want just so that we can vote for President? So we can be "equal" according to the U.S. Constitution? Because in the end, the CNMI is just dust, a point-blank space and probably the last priority out of everywhere in the United States. Is the risk really worth taking?

Supporters of the Insular Cases Doctrine insist that its continuation will preserve our islands' culture and history. To me, this is the view of the majority and personally I would rather live in a place, knowing it is well-loved, taken care of and respected by its people. People who know the history of where they stand. People whose family tree goes six feet down to its roots.

Yes, the Insular Cases Doctrine has its downsides. We cannot vote for the president. Certain people cannot own land. The U.S. Constitution does not have to be fully implemented here. But if you look past these limitations, you see the Doctrine is here to protect us. Only in the territories do you see the native language still spoken regularly, making Chamorro and Carolinian equal in status to English. Without this protection, how long would these languages last?

People say that the Doctrine limits our rights, but to that I say we still have a voice. Knowledge is a powerful weapon. Technology has made our island more accessible. No one can ever fool you if you know your rights. But one can never turn back time to bring culture back to life once they kill it.

If you put both choices on a scale, then one will be evidently heavier than the other. The most difficult part here is not keeping the cultures we have alive. The most difficult part is having to walk away with that torch that lights up our island and handing it to someone else. I myself am not an indigenous person. I am not of Chamorro or Carolinian descent, but I bravely stand here in front of you, asking you to keep protecting our islands. I may be a small voice, but I will use my voice hoping that someone else can hear me.

As Don Henley once wrote, "Some rich men came and raped the land/ Nobody caught 'em/ Put up a bunch of ugly boxes/ and Jesus people bought 'em/ 'nd they called it paradise/ The place to be/ They watched the hazy sun, sinking in the sea/." I don't want this verse to become a representation of here.

Taking everything into account, I support the Insular Cases Doctrine because it is the only foreseeable way of shielding our islands from all the mercenaries. They will say that they want nothing but the best for our islands. They will say that they truly love our culture, historical places and everything about us, but what lies beneath that is their true desire. We do not need to sacrifice the hundreds of years of culture, heritage and history. We do not need to betray this paradise, this hidden gem and this golden treasure. We do not and should not kill it over our desire [for] full sovereignty. Do not be the one to hand out the key to killing us. Do not be the one who will pour water on the fire of culture that the ancient folks ignited thousands of years ago.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More efforts needed to minimize drownings

In over the past five years, there have been a handful of reports of drownings at least once or twice a month. Most of these reports show that the people who drown in famous attraction spots such as Forbidden Island, Laolao Bay, and the Grotto are usually tourists.

On May 7, there was a report of a 61-year old Chinese female who drowned at the Grotto after being stuck under a rock when a wave hit her. A month prior to that, on April 18, a 53-year-old Japanese male drowned while diving at Laolao Bay. The 53-year-old panicked and removed the breathing regulator. There are other tourists at Forbidden Island and Laolao Bay that have also drowned in January, February, and March; all in

See LETTERS on Page 13

MAKING

From Page 10

Frankly, the past Insular Cases referred to are no longer relevant, and should be overturned. It is an antiquated system that perpetuates harm.

First, on land alienation, the grounds of this land we call home does not require that every inch of it is necessary for cultural preservation. The U.S. Department of the Interior on Indian Affairs reports that, and I quote, "Approximately 56.2 million acres are held in trust by the United States for various Indian tribes and individuals." With the United States in its entirety being 2.3 billion acres of land, the Native American Reservations are but a measly 5 percent of U.S. soil.

This is a much more reasonable amount relative to the 100 percent of Saipan soil reserved solely for the ownership of people of Chamorro or Carolinian descent. Instead, we should preserve the islands culture by preserving culturally significant sites such as the House of Taga, Two Lover's Point, Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, and other important areas.

Such a solution is not unheard of. The European Commission was founded under Article 3.3 of the Lisbon Treaty to "respect its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, and…ensure that Europe's cultural heritage is safeguarded and enhanced." To do this, "The focus is on the promotion of the European dimension of the sites and providing access to them. Since 2013, these sites have been carefully selected for their symbolic value, the role they have played in the European history, and activities they offer that bring the European Union and its citizens closer together."

This is fair for everyone. It does much to desensitize the topic of race, thus eliminating most of the racism. It helps to close the gap between the privileges of NMD citizens and non-NMD persons, essentially eliminating second-class citizenship.

The Insular Cases once provided a means of reparation for the peoples of the Northern Marianas. But they have inadvertently created tension and an unacceptable caste system. Their relevance lay in their benefits, but its flaws demand their eradication.

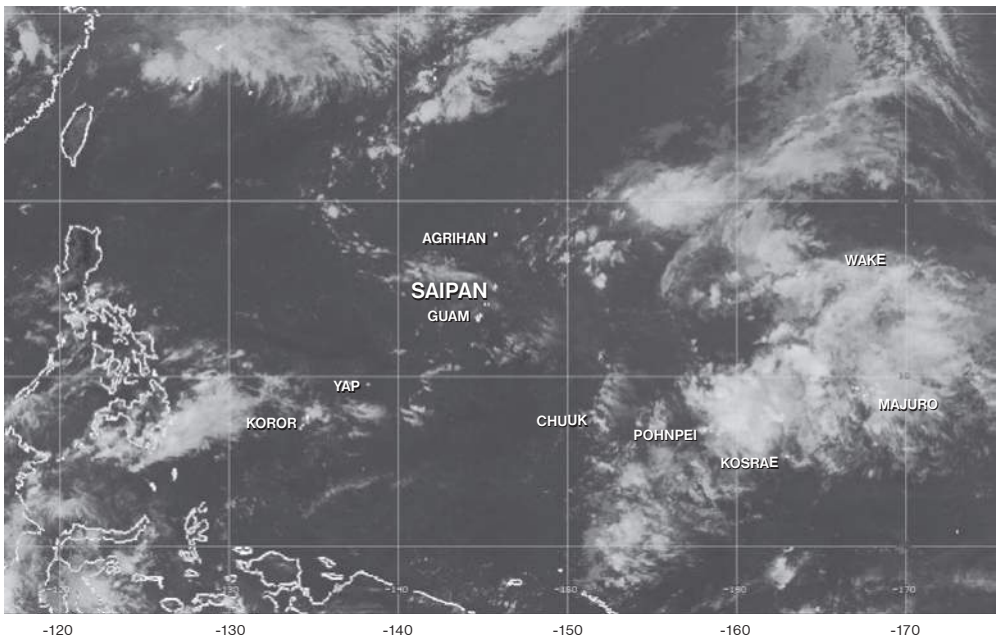
I beg you all to understand that I too care for the islands I love. My hope is to make my home the best it can be.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. A slight chance of afternoon thunderstorms for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:40 PM, SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Little change made to the forecast. A weak surface trough will produce mostly cloudy skies, and a chance of isolated showers and thunderstorms today across the Marianas. The trough will weaken and only isolated showers are expected tonight. Daytime heating will produce a chance for thunderstorms over Guam Monday afternoon. Deep layer moisture will decrease during the coming week and only isolated showers are anticipated Monday night through Saturday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	89° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 82°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 57°
Beijing	Showers	81° / 59°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	83° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 48°
Miami	Showers	81° / 77°
New York	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	77° / 63°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°
Busan	Showers	70° / 61°
Rome	Showers	77° / 61°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	83° / 67°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 51°
Seoul	Showers	72° / 54°
Tokyo	Sunny	79° / 61°
Washington, DC	Showers	81° / 67°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:08 AM	LOW TIDE	1.96
6:52 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.19
11:13 AM	LOW TIDE	1.68
6:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.22

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:17 AM	-	-
Tuesday	-	12:20 AM	12:15 PM
Wednesday	-	1:08 AM	1:12 PM
Thursday	-	1:53 AM	2:06 PM
Friday	-	2:36 AM	2:59 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

LETTERS

From Page 11

the same year.

Putting all of these reports into serious account, it is important to ensure that these spots are safe for tourists and locals to visit. The Grotto may be a popular diving place, but it is highly dangerous for people to casually swim in. The 61-year-old Chinese female was simply crossing the water to get over a big rock but, unfortunately, a gigantic wave hit her and pushed her under the rock due to the powerful current. More hazard warnings must be placed around popular attractions where accidents are likely to happen if visitors are not cautious.

If the drownings at these spots are just swept under the rug, the problems will worsen over time. With more headlines of drownings making the news, tourists and locals alike will feel dissuaded from visiting attraction spots as they will fear the hazards these spots pose. The popularity of these spots will go down, making our tourist visit these spots less often. Saipan losing its tourists will harm our economy greatly, as our economy depends on our tourists and visitors.

A great way to alleviate the problems of these drownings is to enforce stricter rules and regulations in these areas. It may affect the viewer's experience, but safety is always a top priority when it comes to places like these. Another is to extend boundaries as to where people could not cross. A good example would be the Grotto, where you cannot trespass past the big rocks, unless you are a diver with an instructor or supervisor with you. Tour guides are also a great solution to lessening these problems. Many tourists tend to make reckless decisions, which could lead them to great danger. A tour guide who has great familiarity with the locations will prevent situations like these from happening. Although these won't completely get rid of the problem, they will at least reduce the number of drownings.

Angel Legaspi
Koblerville, Saipan

Marijuana bill passes

I must thank the senators for passing the marijuana bill (Senate Bill 20-62), with a special thanks to Sen. Sixto for finally getting it done. As for the three who abstained—Sens. Paul Manglona, Terry Santos and Justo Quitugua—one can only wonder. It has been almost a four-year journey to get to this point and hopefully the bill will have smoother sailing in the House of Representatives and the governor.

The big but is that we still have a long way to go in creating the two industries identified in the bill. The bill must now pass its first inspection point in the House of Representative where it will surely face different perspectives; the bill could become a political football and sent back to the Senate, which is not uncommon. But that is OK; we must trust in the process. We also don't need to look like Guam because of a lack of preparation.

The governor must also now weigh-in on the bill. The legalization of marijuana is simple but it is the complexities of governance, enforcement and accountability over the cannabis and hemp industries that is the true challenge. I'm sure the governor will want to avoid any and all pitfalls so let's just hope the Senate has done a good job on the bill.

If we can't get a lab for testing and if our growers aren't ready with strains of marijuana we still won't be ready to open dispensaries as we must start with the marijuana already in the CNMI. I have been telling marijuana growers for about two years that they need to start "cloning and developing strains." Colorado, Oregon and Washington didn't have a supply problem due to the thousands that were already growing strains. But if our growers haven't taken note and begin the creation of strains, the cannabis industry will be delayed in opening until the CNMI develops the strains and inventory. We must also find a lab, which will be a challenge due to what will be a very small market.

The justification for legalization has really come a long way. You don't need to be a user of marijuana to support legalization. The CNMI has the advantage of "hindsight" in seeing the future trends of our society and we should be able to deal with any potential pitfalls that our predecessors had to experience firsthand.

It has been proven that we (the U.S. Congress and the rest of America) were all lied to when they first made marijuana illegal. So don't be so naive as to believe those lies told almost a century ago to make marijuana illegal.

Science and research has proven marijuana is very helpful for medical purposes and is virtually harmless and far less addictive for recreational use when compared to alcohol and tobacco. Opponents of marijuana need to focus more on limiting the use of alcohol and tobacco.

The concern over our youth becoming engrossed in marijuana use has been proven wrong. Statistics in states where legalization exist has shown that the use of marijuana among teens has decreased, not increased.

Marijuana could treat chronic pain better than opioids and, given we now have an opioids epidemic, this is great news.

Most of the adverse incidents of marijuana overdosing and car accidents have already been attributed to the lack of education and experience in using marijuana.

U.S. legal weed sales could rise by nearly 50 percent in 2018 and hit more than $22 billion by 2022.

Recreational pot sales could double medical sales by 2022.

Total U.S. cannabis demand is $52.5 billion and we are wasting time to get a piece of this humongous pie. Cannabis tourism is the future of tourism in America.

Marijuana jobs growth to average 21 percent a year through 2022.

Federal prosecutors won't take on small-time marijuana cases, despite the Justice Department's decision to lift an Obama-era policy that discouraged authorities from cracking down on the pot trade in states where legal. Federal prosecutors have only intervened when a state's own marijuana laws are being violated.

Trump now backs marijuana "states rights" bill.

Denver approved the city's first legal marijuana club, paving the way for non-alcohol clubs!

The Las Vegas airport is letting people dump their marijuana before flying, which is something I recommended.

The reality is humans have been using marijuana for centuries and it hasn't made anyone sick nor killed anyone. It is high time for us all to learn how to live with marijuana without making someone a criminal for using it. Criminalization did not work, making legalization our best option.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

'Thoughts and prayers' don't help

Mr. President, how many "thoughts and prayers" for those innocent, dead schoolchildren must we listen to until your "do-nothing" administration (aka Congress) "does something"?

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

'Enforce regulations'

Some incidents that have been happening at the Grotto are bringing fear among locals and tourists in the CNMI alike. The Grotto is a top tourist destination; however, the recent increase in accidents is causing Grotto to lose its attraction among tourists. A few years ago, lawmakers passed laws to protect the place and to prevent tourists from getting injured. People are still getting hurt so I urge stricter regulations that would prevent future incidents from happening.

As many will remember, the Grotto previously did not have any entrance fee, lifeguards, or safety materials that would prevent people from getting injured. Nevertheless, a problem has arisen at the Grotto. It has become overcrowded, with an increase in the number of tourists getting injured and dying from either drowning or violating the safety rules. This is because some tourists and locals are not familiar with the area or are not following proper safety procedures. This cause led many tourists and locals to die either by drowning or getting hit by the rocks due to strong waves that struck them. Due to this issue, the CNMI has proposed a $5 entrance fee and going in to Grotto with professional guides. The $5 entrance fee was to prevent the overcrowding at the Grotto and also to rebuild the restroom.

Evidently, the law didn't work out for people and wasn't strongly enforced. Still, there aren't any lifeguards to save people in danger or even strong safety rules that people would follow. Earlier this month, on May 8, 2018, another victim was found at the Grotto. A 61-year-old woman drowned. This tells me that law enforcement isn't strong and lawmakers are only proposing rules, but not enforcing the plan to become an official law that citizens of Saipan and visitors must follow.

As a citizen of Saipan, I do not want to see more tourists and locals die. This issue can lower the tourism rate on Saipan, which would threaten the economy. Thus, I highly recommend lawmakers to enact stronger laws that would decrease the death rate at the Grotto. It would give people peace of mind if there are lifeguards to prevent people from doing any dangerous behaviors and also putting out safety lines such as how Managaha has lines that tourists cannot pass over. It would be nice if you would consider some of these ideas when you propose a law. This is to make the Grotto into a safe place.

HeeJoo Lee
Koblerville, Saipan

TOUGHER

From Page 10

wrongheaded response to the complex problem of poverty in one of the richest countries in the world.

The work rules are part of the $868 billion farm bill being debated in the House this week, which has split predictably along partisan lines. "We are focusing on empowering people," House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.) said this week while defending the proposal. And he may well believe that. It's a persistent, if flawed, article of faith among conservatives that public assistance can do more harm than good because it encourages dependency on government help. Under this line of thinking, if poor people were given the right incentive to get off their rears and do an honest day's work, they would be better off in the long term. That's a nice story, but no more accurate than that of apocryphal welfare queens who drive luxury cars and wear designer jeans financed with overly generous public assistance checks.

We agree that people should be encouraged to work and helped to overcome the barriers they may face to employment. But it's worth bearing in mind that food stamp recipients already are required to hold down jobs or attend work-related instruction if they're capable, as mandated in 1996 as part of a larger restructuring of welfare benefits under former President Bill Clinton. About 44 percent of the households relying on food stamps have at least one person employed, according to 2015 data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The current rules limit individuals without kids who are 18 to 49 years old to three months of SNAP benefits every three years unless they are working or enrolled in a government-sponsored training program. This group accounts for only about 17 percent of SNAP beneficiaries—the rest are minors, people caring for young children, seniors and disabled individuals. (College students and immigrants in the country illegally are not eligible for benefits, no matter how poor or hungry they may be.)

The new rules would extend the work requirement to those up to age 59 and to parents of children as young as 6, while increasing the number of hours of work required per week from 20 to 25 by 2026. The CBO estimated that about a third of the recipients who would be covered by the new work requirements already would meet them, and most of the remaining group would be exempted. Nevertheless, a large number would still drop off the rolls, the CBO projected.

Would the House GOP proposal result in more people gainfully employed? Maybe. But the added bureaucracy and hoops that recipients would be required to jump through—such as having their eligibility checked every month—would certainly raise the program's costs and reduce participation by needy Americans whose work hours may fluctuate wildly from month to month.

So what problem are House Republicans trying to solve? There's no evidence of massive fraud in the system; instead, the government reports a fraud rate of less than 1 percent—one of the lowest rates of any government program. Its administrative costs also have been relatively low.

Nor is anyone getting rich on food stamps benefits. Enrollees receive only $126 a month on average. To be eligible, applicants must have income of 130 percent of the poverty line or less, the equivalent of $2,213 a month or less for a family of three. That is hardly enough to pay for rent in Los Angeles, let alone buy food. And the new work rules, which could hurt so many legitimately needy people, wouldn't even save the government much money. The CBO estimates the new work and reporting rules will save $9.2 billion over 10 years by forcing people out of the program, but would cost an added $7.7 billion to provide more government training programs for those who need them to remain eligible, as well as to administer the new rules.

There is indeed something wrong when so many Americans need help feeding themselves and their families. But it is not something that can be fixed by imposing new, unproven and, frankly, miserly work rules on poor Americans.

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2nd Honor

Sujin Bill Wang
3rd Honor

Andy Wei

Wang, Miaozhuo (Barbara)

Yongjun Lin (Joe)

Middle School Graduates

Kevin Tang
Valedictorian

Silas Xu
Valedictorian

Chen, Susan

Han, Zhourui (Nancy)

He, Jianan (Isaiah)

Jenny Min

Jin, Dandan (Kyra)

Victoria Parnes Ancheta
Salutatorian

Li, Zihao (Hansen)

Lin, Jiayi (Jemima)

Ou, Meihui (Mei)

Wu, Saiya (Deborah)

Zhang, Yunzhe (Alice)

High School Graduates

Cai, Dawei (David)
Valedictorian
Next Destination
Major in Health Science and Biblical Studies, Bob Jones University, South Carolina

Cai, Jingwen (Deborah)
Salutatorian
Next Destination
Major in Computer Science & Mathematics Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Feng, Tianen (Alexander)
Next Destination
Computer Science & Software Engineering Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Li, Yishen (Leo)
Next Destination
Major in Pre-Physical Therapy Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Lu, Kun (Mark)
Next Destination
Major in Mechanical Engineering Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Lucy Gu Chengming
Next Destination
Major in Humanities and Social Science Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

Lyu, Xile (Joy)
Next Destination
Major in Elementary Education & Biblical Studies Bob Jones University, South Carolina

Rui, Shiyan (Joseph)
Next Destination
Major in Accounting Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Su, Yangzhou (Suzanne)
Next Destination
Major in Biology, Pre-Dentistry Calvin College, Michigan

Xing, Xuan (Annie)
Next Destination
Major in Nursing Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Yang, Shengai (Tiffany)
Next Destination
Major in Secondary Education Pensacola Christian College, Florida

Zhang, Tianbo (Evon)
Next Destination
Major in Graphic Design Pensacola Christian College, Florida

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Pacifica Insurance offers $5K as TOC hole-in-one prize

Add $5,000 more to the already impressive list of prizes that may be won at the 23rd Annual Governor's Tournament of Champions.

Pacific Insurance Underwriters announced last Friday that it is participating in the golf tournament by sponsoring the large cash award as a hole-in-one prize.

"The Governor's Tournament of Champions is a golf tournament with a good purpose. Let's continue to support it," said Shirley Sablan, president and general manager of Pacifica In

"The Tournament of Champions credits its longstanding success to the generosity of companies like Pacifica Insurance," said Ben Babauta, tournament director.

The 23rd Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf and Resort's east and west courses on May 26 and 27. The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Super Senior flights will each receive $500 cash, $400 cash, $300 cash, a Casio watch, and $100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth place, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive $500, $400, and $300 cash for first to third place, respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include a brand new 2018 Hyundai Kona donated by Triple J Motors, $5,000 hole in-one cash prize donated by Pacifica Insurance, $5,000 hole-in-one cash prize donated by McDonald's of Saipan, one year free golf donated by Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, one round-trip ticket to anywhere in Asia donated by Asiana Airlines, and one round-trip ticket to Guangzhou or Shanghai donated by Saipan Travel Inc.

Since its inception, TOC has turned over more than $800,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the Kensington Hotel Saipan, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, the Governor's TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Pathway, and the beautification of the Port to Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2018 TOC, contact Oceana Aldan at 236-2533 or Marida Pensader at 236- 2530. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is offering $5,000 as a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming Governor's Tournament of Champions that will be held on May 26 and 27, 2018.From left, Trenton Lillemon, Pacifica Insurance representative; Samantha Sikayun, Pacifica Insurance representative; Jose Tenorio, Pacifica Insurance representative; Marida Pensader, TOC committee member; Jose Tudela, TOC committee member; Marie Sablan, TOC committee member; and Dora Lizama, TOC committee member. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili donates books to public library

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) donated 22 boxes of books to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last May 3, 2018.

These books came from the surplus at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. It included nonfiction and fiction adult titles and young adult fiction and nonfiction. The public is invited to come and check out these books after they become ready.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. ***(PR)***

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) poses with some of the books he donated to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last May 3, 2018. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Study: Widespread support for MPAs in CNMI

A study conducted in 2017 showed that people of the Northern Mariana Islands overwhelmingly support marine protected areas in the CNMI and want more protected areas in their waters.

In his report, "Public Perceptions of Marine Protected Areas in the Northern Mariana Islands," Danny Morris of the University of York presented data on voter opinions on Saipan regarding marine protected areas and the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument.

Morris

Ultimately, the hope is that this work will be able to inform decision makers on the best course for improved MPA management.

A video presentation of the work can be viewed on the Mariana Trench Facebook page: www.facebook.com/marianamonument

Around the Northern Mariana Islands, there are eight MPAs. Five of these are small, coastal strict no-take areas and two are small, coastal limited-take where specific species cannot be extracted. In addition to these coastal protections is the Islands Unit of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument, which protects the federal waters around the far Northern Islands of Asuncion, Maug, and Uracus.

To get a representative sample of opinions, Morris interviewed 253 people of all ages and backgrounds on the island. The survey took an average of 15 minutes and included open-ended and closed questions.

The results of the survey showed that the people in the CNMI support MPAs. When asked how much of the Mariana Islands ocean space should be protected, the average answer was 57 percent.

There were less positive responses when asked similar questions about the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument, but they were still overwhelmingly positive. From these results, Morris deduced several steps that could be taken moving forward that could increase the understanding of the monument with the public.

He suggested that the benefits and successes of the monument should be better communicated to ensure a well-informed public opinion. Morris also suggests that there should be better representation of the local people on the Advisory Council, which currently is only three people. Further, he recommends that CNMI obtain co-management with the U.S. government and the completion of the long overdue management plan.

Marine protected areas have long been proven to be a powerful tool in effectively managing marine resources and ecosystems. They are the oldest form of fisheries management tool, and have existed in the Pacific for centuries. These survey results show that MPAs are also overwhelmingly supported by the community and the creation of new protected areas would be welcome. ***(PR)***

Business

US, China agree to cut US trade deficit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and China have agreed to take measures to "substantially reduce" America's massive trade deficit with China, but the Trump administration failed to get the Chinese to commit to a specific numerical goal.

Still, the talks, which began Thursday and ended Saturday with the issuance of a joint statement, may have helped to ease tensions at least slightly between the world's two biggest economic powers. In recent months the two have threatened to impose punitive tariffs on billions of dollars in each other's exports.

In the statement, Beijing committed to "significantly increase" its purchases of American goods and services, saying that the increase would "meet the growing consumption needs of the Chinese people and the need for high-quality economic development." The two countries also agreed on "meaningful increases" of U.S. agriculture and energy exports and greater efforts to increase trade in manufactured goods and services. The United States said it would send a team to China to work out the details.

The statement, however, provided no dollar amounts on how much China might boost its purchases of American products. Lawrence Kudlow, head of the president's National Economic Council, had told reporters Friday that a reduction in the trade gap of at least $200 billion by 2020 was a "good number."

Last year, the United States had a record deficit with China in merchandise trade of $375 billion, the largest with any nation.

Saturday's statement also was silent on whether the talks had made progress in easing a developing tit-for-tat trade war in which each nation threatened to impose punitive tariffs.

Trade analysts said it was highly unlikely that China would ever agree to a numerical target for cutting the trade gap between the two nations, but they said the talks likely were more successful in de-escalating recent trade tensions.

"It is likely that this agreement, weak and vague though it is, will serve as grounds to at least delay the imposition of tariffs," said Eswar Prasad, an economist and trade expert at Cornell University.

"The Trump administration seems eager to engineer at minimum a temporary peace with China to ensure a smooth runup to the Kim-Trump summit in June," Prasad said, referring to the June 12 meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader.

The Washington talks, which followed a high-level meeting last month in Beijing, were led on the Chinese side by Vice Premier Liu He and on the American side by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The U.S. delegation included Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

Trump campaigned in 2016 on a pledge to get tough on China and other U.S. trading partners. He views the massive U.S. trade deficit with China as evidence that Beijing is engaged in abusive trading practices and has outmaneuvered previous U.S. administrations.

Last August, Lighthizer began an investigation into Beijing's strong-arm tactics to challenge U.S. technological dominance. These include outright cybertheft of U.S. companies' trade secrets and China's demands that American corporations hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese markets.

Last month, the administration proposed tariffs on $50 billion of Chinese imports to protest the forced technology transfers. Trump later ordered Lighthizer to seek up to an additional $100 billion in Chinese products to tax.

China responded by targeting $50 billion in U.S. products, including soybeans — a shot at Trump supporters in America's heartland. The prospect of an escalating trade war has shaken financial markets and alarmed business leaders.

Scholar: Dumping fossil fuels by 2050 needed to save climate

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Getting rid of fossil fuels by mid-century and making the switch to large-scale renewable energy sources and nuclear power offers the best chance of meeting the climate change targets set out by the Paris accord, a prominent American economist said Friday.

Columbia University Professor Jeffrey Sachs said the world's ways of producing and using energy need to change "much faster, much more dramatically" than political leaders looking to tap hydrocarbon reserves understand.

"So, if we want to move to zero emissions we better get the idea to move away from fossil fuels faster than Shell oil company thinks we can," Sachs told a conference in the Cypriot capital on the climate change challenges faced by Mediterranean countries and the Middle East.

Sachs said climate change bringing desertification, drought, crop failures and rising sea levels are putting the region's agriculture "in dire threat."

"It's worked well for the last 8,000 years and we're going to ruin it in this generation, and that's crazy," said Sachs, who also serves as an adviser to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on sustainable development.

"This is the tinder of conflict, of mass migration, or all the things we don't handle decently," he added.

Sachs says the best approach is to set up interconnected power grids where emissions-free electricity from renewable energy sources in one region could be transmitted elsewhere.

For instance, an interconnected grid would enable North African and the Middle Eastern countries harnessing their ample solar power potential to transmit generated electricity to colder and less sunny northern Europe.

Sachs hailed China as the current world leader in the energy interconnection project and urged Europe to draw up similar plans.

Although opposing exploitation of east Mediterranean gas deposits, he urged countries moving ahead with such projects to take steps and steeply curb carbon emissions while preparing their economies for carbon-free electricity generation to fire up everything from cars, to ships and factories.

Sachs, who also heads Columbia University's Earth Institute, said Mediterranean countries could work together to draw up proposals on mitigating the challenges they face and submit them to a high-level U.N. climate summit set for September, 2019.

Nation

Police search for motive in Texas school shooting

SANTA FE, Texas (AP)—The mother of one of the 10 people killed at a Texas high school said her daughter recently rejected the romantic advances of the 17-year-old charged in the shootings, a possible motive for the violent tragedy.

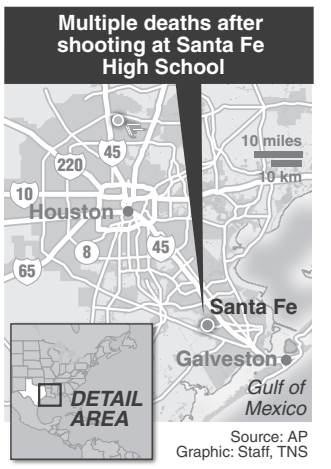
Sadie Rodriguez said her daughter, Shana Fisher, had made clear that she was not interested in Dimitrios Pagourtzis.

"He continued to get more aggressive," Rodriguez told The Associated Press in an interview conducted Saturday via Facebook. "She finally stood up to him and embarrassed him."

The incident took place one week before the shooting, Rodriguez said. Police have not yet said what might have motivated the attack.

Asked about Rodriguez's allegation, a lawyer for the Pagourtzis's family said he hadn't heard about any such interaction between Pagourtzis and any of the victims and therefore couldn't comment.

"That's news to me," said lawyer Nicholas Poehl, though he cautioned that he'd spent much of the day disputing false rumors about the teen's personal life. Earlier Saturday, Poehl issued a statement from the family saying that they were "as shocked and confused as anyone else by these events that occurred" and asked for privacy.



"While we remain mostly in the dark about the specifics of yesterday's tragedy, what we have learned from media reports seems incompatible with the boy we love," the family's statement said.

Representatives of the school district did not immediately respond to questions about Rodriguez's comments.

A junior at Santa Fe High, Pagourtzis hid a shotgun and a handgun under his trenchcoat before opening fire in a first-period art class on Friday, according to an affidavit filed by police. The FBI announced Saturday that it had taken the lead in the joint investigation, at the request of local authorities.

"He gave a statement admitting to shooting multiple people inside the Santa Fe High School with the intent on killing people," the police affidavit said. "Dimitrios advised he did not shoot students he did like so he could have his story told." The attack ended when Pagourtzis walked out of a classroom and surrendered to police.

Authorities say Pagourtzis planned the killings, carried out with weapons owned by his father. Though Pagourtzis allegedly wrote about his intention to carry out the attack, authorities have not indicated a motive for the violence.

Gov. Greg Abbott said Pagourtzis had planned to kill himself after the shooting, but that Pagourtzis told police "that he didn't have the courage to commit the suicide."

Some Santa Fe High students indicated that Pagourtzis may have had one or more targets, though details were not clear. Breanna Quintanilla, 17, a junior, said she was in her art classroom Friday morning in what she described as a "perfectly normal day" when she heard gun shots.

Quintanilla said when Pagourtzis first walked in, he pointed at one person and said, "I'm going to kill you." Quintanilla, who was wounded escaping the classroom, did not identify that student.

Hawaii lava flow ramps up as new magma mixes with old

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP)—Lava oozing out of cracks for two weeks in rural Hawaii neighborhoods took on new characteristics as fresher magma mixed with decades-old magma, sending a flow toward the ocean Saturday.

Since a first fissure opened in a community on May 3, lava was mostly spattering up and collecting at the edges of the cracks in the ground. Two neighborhoods with nearly 2,000 people were forced to evacuate as lava claimed 40 structures.

On Friday afternoon, the lava changed dramatically with one fissure ramping up and sending a flow across a road, destroying four more homes and isolating residents, some of whom had to be air-lifted to safety.

The change is attributed to new magma mixing with 1955-era magma in the ground, creating hotter and more fluid flows, scientists said.

"There's much more stuff coming out of the ground and it's going to produce flows that move further away," said Wendy Stovall, a U.S. Geological Survey volcanologist.

By Saturday morning, two of 22 fissures had merged, creating a wide flow advancing at rates of up to 300 yards (274 meters) per hour. Aerial footage from the USGS showed fast-moving lava advancing to the southeast. The flow was 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometers) from the ocean, scientists said.

In the background, the footage showed lava fountaining 328 feet (100 meters) high at one of the fissures. The fountains are created by vents closing, forcing magma to burst through a single outpoint, Stovall said.

If lava threatens main highways, more people will be told to prepare for voluntary evacuation.

A lava flow was less than a mile (kilometer) away from Highway 137 and would reach it in a matter of hours, officials warned Saturday afternoon. No one lives in its path and another highway remained open as an escape route, said Hawaii County spokeswoman Janet Snyder.

A handful of people were trapped when lava crossed a road Friday and some of them needed to be airlifted to safety.

"They shouldn't be in that area," said County Managing Director Wil Okabe. He wants people to heed evacuation warnings.

Edwin Montoya, who lives with his daughter on her farm near the site where lava crossed the road and cut off access, said the fissure opened and grew quickly.

"It was just a little crack in the ground, with a little lava coming out," he said. "Now it's a big crater that opened up where the small little crack in the ground was."

Asia

Taiwan president, pressed by Beijing, pledges more security

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president said Sunday her government will step up security measures to respond to military threats from China.

President Tsai Ing-wen gave no details in comments posted online but her government has encouraged development of a domestic arms industry in response to pressure from Beijing, which claims the island as its own territory and has sent fighter planes near its coast.

"We will strengthen our work for the whole society's security," Tsai wrote in response to questions from the public. She said her government will "especially look out for these factors from China."

Taiwan and the communist mainland, separated since a civil war in 1949, have extensive trade and investment ties but no official relations.

Tsai, elected in 2016, rejects Beijing's contention they are "one China" and must unite.

The mainland government of President Xi Jinping has responded with shows of force and diplomatic efforts to persuade the few countries that recognize Taiwan as an independent country to switch ties to Beijing.

The Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, has sent fighter planes near Taiwan's coast a dozen times since Tsai's election and an aircraft carrier sailing through the 110-mile-wide (170-kilometer-wide) strait that separates them.

AP

In this Wednesday, April 11, 2018, file photo, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen attends a press conference at the Presidential Office in Taipei, Taiwan.

Beijing has threatened to attack if Taiwan declares formal independence or delays talks on unification. Government surveys in Taiwan show most of the island's 23 million people prefer to maintain their autonomy.

According to Tsai's office, members of the public left 56 questions about cross-strait relations on her office's Facebook page ahead of Sunday's event.

One asked what she will do to "get rid" of China's "channels to infiltrate into Taiwan." Tsai didn't respond directly but said as a "polite president" she would shake hands with Xi.

The president appeared to be trying to use the online forum to allay public fears and reach out to younger Taiwanese rather than expand on her China policy, said George Hou, an assistant professor of mass communications at Taiwan's I-Shou University.

The flybys and aircraft carrier movement have alarmed people in Taiwan, prompting questions about whether Tsai is handling the situation appropriately.

"She probably considered that she should make some connections with younger friends," Hou said. "China-Taiwan policies haven't changed in the past year. China needs to change."

US criticizes China's militarization of disputed waters

BEIJING (AP)—The Pentagon criticized what it called China's "continued militarization" of island outposts in the disputed South China Sea, where the Chinese air force landed long-range bombers for the first time, putting entire Southeast Asia within their range.

The China Daily newspaper reported Saturday that the People's Liberation Army Air Force conducted takeoff and landing training with the H-6K bomber in the South China Sea.

China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves.

A statement from the Defense Ministry late Friday said the exercise was conducted on an island reef, but it did not specify when or where, saying only that it took place recently at a "southern sea area." It involved several H-6Ks taking off from an air base and making a simulated strike against sea targets before landing, the ministry said.

Wang Mingliang, a military expert, was quoted in the statement as saying that the exercises will help the air force improve its "real combat ability against all kinds of marine security threats."

The U.S., which doesn't have any territorial claims but insists on freedom of navigation and a peaceful resolution of the disputes without coercion or threat of force, criticized the move.

"The United States remains committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific," a Pentagon spokesman, Marine Lt. Col. Christopher Logan, said in an email. "We have seen these same reports and China's continued militarization of disputed features in the South China Sea only serves to raise tensions and destabilize the region."

The Washington-based Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative, using Chinese social media posts, identified the location of the exercise as Woody Island, China's largest base in the Paracel Islands that are also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan.

With a combat radius of nearly 1,900 nautical miles (3,520 kilometers), the H-6K bomber would put all of Southeast Asia in its range from Woody Island, AMTI said.

Farther south in the Spratly group of islands, China has constructed seven man-made islands and equipped them with runways, hangers, radar and missile stations, further cementing its vast territorial claims in the busy waterway.

The U.S. and others accuse Beijing of militarizing the region to bolster its claims. Washington has said it violates a pledge by President Xi Jinping to former President Barack Obama not to militarize the area. China says it has a legitimate right to build up defenses on the islands.

World

Company in Cuba plane crash had received safety complaints

HAVANA (AP)—The Mexican charter company whose 39-year-old plane crashed in Havana had been the subject of two serious complaints about its crews' performance over the last decade, according to authorities in Guyana and a retired pilot for Cuba's national airline.

Mexico's government said late Saturday that its National Civil Aviation Authority will carry out an operational audit of Damojh airlines to see if its "current operating conditions continue meeting regulations" and to help collect information for the investigation into Friday's crash in Cuba that left 110 dead.

The plane that crashed, a Boeing 737, was barred from Guyanese airspace last year after authorities discovered that its crew had been allowing dangerous overloading of luggage on flights to Cuba, Guyanese Civil Aviation Director Capt. Egbert Field told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The plane and crew were being rented from Mexico City-based Damojh by EasySky, a Honduras-based low-cost airline. Cuba's national carrier, Cubana de Aviacion, was also renting the plane and crew in a similar arrangement known as a "wet lease" before the aircraft veered on takeoff to the eastern Cuban city of Holguin and crashed into a field just after noon Friday, according to Mexican aviation authorities.

AP

Forensic investigators and Ministry of Interior officers sift through remains of a Boeing 737 that plummeted into a yuca field with more than 100 passengers on board, in Havana, Cuba, Friday, May 18, 2018.

A Damojh employee in Mexico City declined to comment, saying the company would be communicating only through written statements. Mexican authorities said Damojh had permits needed to lease its aircraft and had passed a November 2017 verification of its maintenance program. They announced a new audit late Saturday.

Cuban Transportation Minister Adel Yzquierdo Rodriguez told reporters Saturday afternoon that Cubana had been renting the plane for less than a month under an arrangement in which the Mexican company was entirely responsible for maintenance of the aircraft. Armando Daniel Lopez, president of Cuba's Institute of Civil Aviation, told the AP that Cuban authorities had not received any complaints about the plane in that month. He declined to comment further.

Yzquierdo said it was routine for Cuba to rent planes under a variety of arrangements because of what he described as the country's inability to purchase its own aircraft due to the U.S. trade embargo on the island. Cuba has been able to buy planes produced in other countries, including France and Ukraine, but has pulled many from service due to maintenance problems and other issues.

Iraq's al-Sadr, promising reform, is constrained by Iran

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's Muqtada al-Sadr, the maverick Shiite cleric whose political coalition beat out Iran's favored candidates to come in first in national elections, says he wants to form a government that puts Iraqis first.

The electoral commission announced early Saturday that the militant-turned-populist preacher, who has long spoken out against both Iranian and U.S. influence in Iraq, had defeated his establishment rivals.

Al-Sadr — who is remembered for leading an insurgency against U.S. forces after the 2003 invasion — did not run for a seat himself and is unlikely to become prime minister, but will command a significant number of seats and has already begun informal talks about government formation.

Salah al-Obeidi, a spokesman for al-Sadr's Sa'eroun political bloc, told The Associated Press that Iraq's sovereignty was going to be the new government's "guiding principle."

"We warn any other country that wants to involve itself in Iraqi politics not to cross the Iraqi people," he said.

However, even as al-Sadr is in position to nominate a prime minister and set the political agenda for the next four years, he will find his choices limited by Iran.

The Middle East's preeminent Shiite power has a direct line with some of Iraq's most powerful politicians, and it is trying to rally them as a bloc to undercut al-Sadr.

Al-Sadr's rise threatens Iran's claim to speak on behalf of Iraq's Shiite majority, a precedent that could fuel independent Shiite movements elsewhere. Also at stake are top ministerial posts — political appointments that are a source of patronage and police and military power.

Al-Sadr himself has kept a relatively low public profile. But in a public relations move that appeared to be directed at Iran, he appeared on Thursday with rival cleric Ammar al-Hakim, who has drifted away from Iran's orbit in recent years, to say the two men share similar visions for the next government.

Tehran has dispatched its top regional military commander, Gen. Qassem Soleimani, to pull together a coalition to counterbalance al-Sadr, according to an Iraqi Shiite militia commander who is familiar with the meetings.

"Iran won't accept the creation of a Shiite bloc that is a threat to its interests. It's a red line," said the commander, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the discussions.

Health & Wellness

Which fitness app to use?

Readers weigh in

By LESLIE BARKER
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

There was once a time—really, truly, and not all that long ago—when people merely exercised. They didn't wear watches. They didn't wear heart-rate monitors. They didn't record every move. Phones were for conversations and tended to stay attached to a wall at home.

If you exercise these days, though, chances are pretty good you track it in some way. And a main way is through apps: The website digitaltrends.com estimates that 100,000 are dedicated to health and fitness and that globally the market is worth about $4 billion.

Lists abound about which apps are most popular, or best for monitoring calorie intake and exercise output; which are easy to understand, and which take more time to calculate than you may exercise in a week.

But those are just lists. What do real people get from their app-focused health routines? We found some aficionados, and asked them to explain how they found an approach that clicked with them.

RON BASELICE/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

Stan Eigenbrodt checks his heart rate with the Polar Beat app while working out at Trophy Fitness in Addison, Texas. The app uses a monitor that is strapped to his chest and sends the information to his iPhone via bluetooth.

'I like having information.'

Name: Stan Eigenbrodt, 49

Number of apps used: At least six

Favorites: Lose It! and Runkeeper

Primary activity: Weight training and running

"I'm sort of a tech person," says Eigenbrodt, an attorney who lives in Plano, Tex. "I like playing around with my iPhone. I like having information. I just got a Polar Beat wireless heart-rate monitor, which has a Polar app and talks to Runkeeper. Now when I'm running, I can do so from a metabolic standpoint."

He continues:

"If I run with Runkeeper, it takes the calories it thinks I burned to Lose It! It also tracks my steps in Fitbit. If it thinks the calorie count is more accurate than the algorithm, it takes those. If I have two entries, one from Runkeeper and one from Fitbit, it deletes one, so I don't end up eating too many calories.

"I wear the monitor when I work out. When I work out with my trainer, I don't use Runkeeper. I use the Polar app for that. Now I use the Polar app with Runkeeper so I can look at the overall report on Polar to see how it changes. I'm a data guy like that. I like to look at all those and see what's going on."

Eigenbrodt started out with Lose It!, an app which, at its most basic, tracks food intake. He liked the app, its information and most especially the discipline it has taught him.

RON BASELICE/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

Bree Redwine runs at White Rock Lake in Dallas. She has narrowed her fitness apps down to My Fitness Pal, Pact and Garmin Connect.

"I can out eat any workout," he says. "In a lot of office environments and certainly this one, almost every day someone is having a birthday and there's cake or muffins. If I'm not writing down what I eat, it's easy not to think about it and to just eat."

Recently, he wrote in an email: "I finally got my Apple Watch. It has some apps that work well with the Apple Health app, and Runkeeper has an Apple Watch app, but I have to say it's too soon for me to know if the watch is going to be transformative."

'I wanted to see everything.'

Name: Bree Redwine, 51

Number of apps used: Three

Favorite: My Fitness Pal

Primary activity: Running and weight training

"The reason I chose those I did is that they worked best for me," says Redwine. "I looked at others. I downloaded them. I got so frustrated."

Redwine has four children. She works full time at Luke's Locker sportswear store. She works out every day. Ease is imperative.

"I did start out using more," she says. "I then just really looked at what I needed for my life and lifestyle and realized I needed something quick and practical and efficient."

My Fitness Pal was her first app. Then she bought a Garmin Vivosmart fitness band and, she says, "my world opened up." The apps connect; she records everything she eats and drinks as well as her weekly weight. The watch monitors her heart rate, her movement, her sleep patterns.

"I'm a weird person," she says. "I wanted to see everything."

Knowing her stats has improved the way she eats and trains, she says.

"It's almost like Big Brother is watching you. When I see that, I tend to do better."

She's also joined an online community with which "you can talk to, share ideas with, share struggles," she says. "You get recognition in the community of Garmin or My Fitness Pal and little trophies and badges, which is fun. You're always notified when you surpass certain goals, which gives that extra inspiration."

Her latest app is Pact, which pays you for meeting your goal and charges your bank account when you don't. She also now has an Apple Watch.

"The heart rate monitor rocks!" she writes in an email. "I like it oh so much."

'I don't want to be fined.'

Name: Dan Gray, 45

Number of apps used: At least a dozen

Favorite: My Fitness Pal

Primary activity: Running

"I was one of those guys growing up who was picked last for the kickball team," he says. "I discovered running about five years ago."

But while training for a marathon, he was surprised to be gaining weight.

"That's when I realized I must be doing something wrong, but couldn't put my finger on it," he says.

He asked a running friend who had lost a lot of weight how he did it. The answer changed Gray's life:

My Fitness Pal.

"Anyone I'm friends with can see what I eat," he says. "By putting in what I eat as I'm eating it, I found myself making small calibrations in order to get under my calorie limit. Once I started developing good eating habits, I started layering on other things, like tracking the exercise."

He does that with several apps; among them Pact.

"I've been using it about a year," says Gray, who works in the health care industry. "They take My Fitness Pal and other apps one step further."

He set up Pact by committing, for example, to how often and how long he'll exercise, how many times he'll log his food, how many fruits and vegetables he'll eat. If My Fitness Pal and his other apps sync up and show he's not following through, he'll be fined either $5 or $10. If he does, he receives $1 to $1.50 a week.

"What I've found, man, is that I will really work a lot to get that dollar or dollar-fifty a week," he says. "I don't want to be fined."

REX C. CURRY/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

Dan Gray regulary uses nine apps on his smartphone to monitor his health.

So far, he hasn't been. Granted, recording his food, his workouts, his weight, his blood pressure—and, because he's diabetic, his blood-sugar readings—on apps has taken a little getting used to, but it's worth the effort, he says.

"Anything new is hard, just like running is hard," he says. "I think that's the mind-set you have to have. Any time you try something new, and maybe even the first 10 times, you won't be good at it.

"You just have to attack it as 'I'm learning another habit.'"

FITNESS PRO

How exercise fights stress

By NANCI HELLMICH
USA TODAY

Fitness expert Chris Powell, the transformation specialist on ABC's Extreme Weight Loss, says that when he's stressed out, he trains. "Exercise is one of the most powerful anti-stress and anti-depressant medications.

"Physically, we get an incredible endorphin release to make us feel better, and mentally we earn an amazing sense of accomplishment for the rest of the day," says Powell, who has a degree in exercise science and is the author of the book, Choose More, Lose More for Life.

Powell and other health-savvy celebrities share their ideas for reducing stress, exercising and living an overall healthy life in the magazine USA TODAY The Best Ways to Stress Less, Sleep Better, on newsstands now.

His best insights on:

Living a healthy life. "The best way to live an overall healthy life is to exercise regularly and eat in moderation. Moderation is key—don't let yourself go hungry, or you will likely overeat later. One of my favorite tricks to keep my appetite at bay is to eat one tablespoon of almond butter with a glass of warm water 30 minutes before a meal; you'll feel stuffed before you eat and most likely consume a fraction of the calories you would normally devour."

Weaving exercise into his life. "On the road it's actually pretty easy. I do a lot of body-weight training: push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, squats, etc. In most hotel gyms I have access to dumbbells … and I'll try to map out a local gym wherever I'm staying so I can throw some barbells around."

Sleeping well. "When I sleep, I sleep well. I'm often in a new city every couple of days, and the time zones can throw me off a bit. Whenever I don't get as much sleep as necessary, I do my best to carve out time for a nap.

"I average between 8 and 9 hours every night. I train hard, so I need quite a bit of sleep. It is sometimes easier to sleep on the road, but when I'm home with the family we have a strict early bedtime so I can be up for my 5 a.m. workouts."

Dealing with sleepless nights. "I go through breathing techniques. I often find myself worrying about events in the future—which causes my body to stress about them as if they are actually happening. I focus on my breathing and appreciate the quiet and calm I am experiencing now."

Enjoying food while managing weight. "It's important to remember that food that can help you maintain your weight can taste amazing too. Choose whole, unprocessed foods that you love to eat—everything from fresh fruits, to sweet potatoes, quinoa, and foods with healthy fats like avocados and almonds. You read that right—you can eat healthy fats and manage your weight. It is also important not to deprive yourself. Choose a day every week to reward yourself with whatever foods you may be craving—in moderation, of course."

Losing weight. "Make small, attainable promises that you can keep every day. Unite with other people with similar goals and aspirations. They will be there for accountability and emotional support. Create an environment for success: Clean out your house, car and workplace. Stock up with healthy, tasty foods like lean meats, protein shakes, almonds, fruits, vegetables and whole grains."

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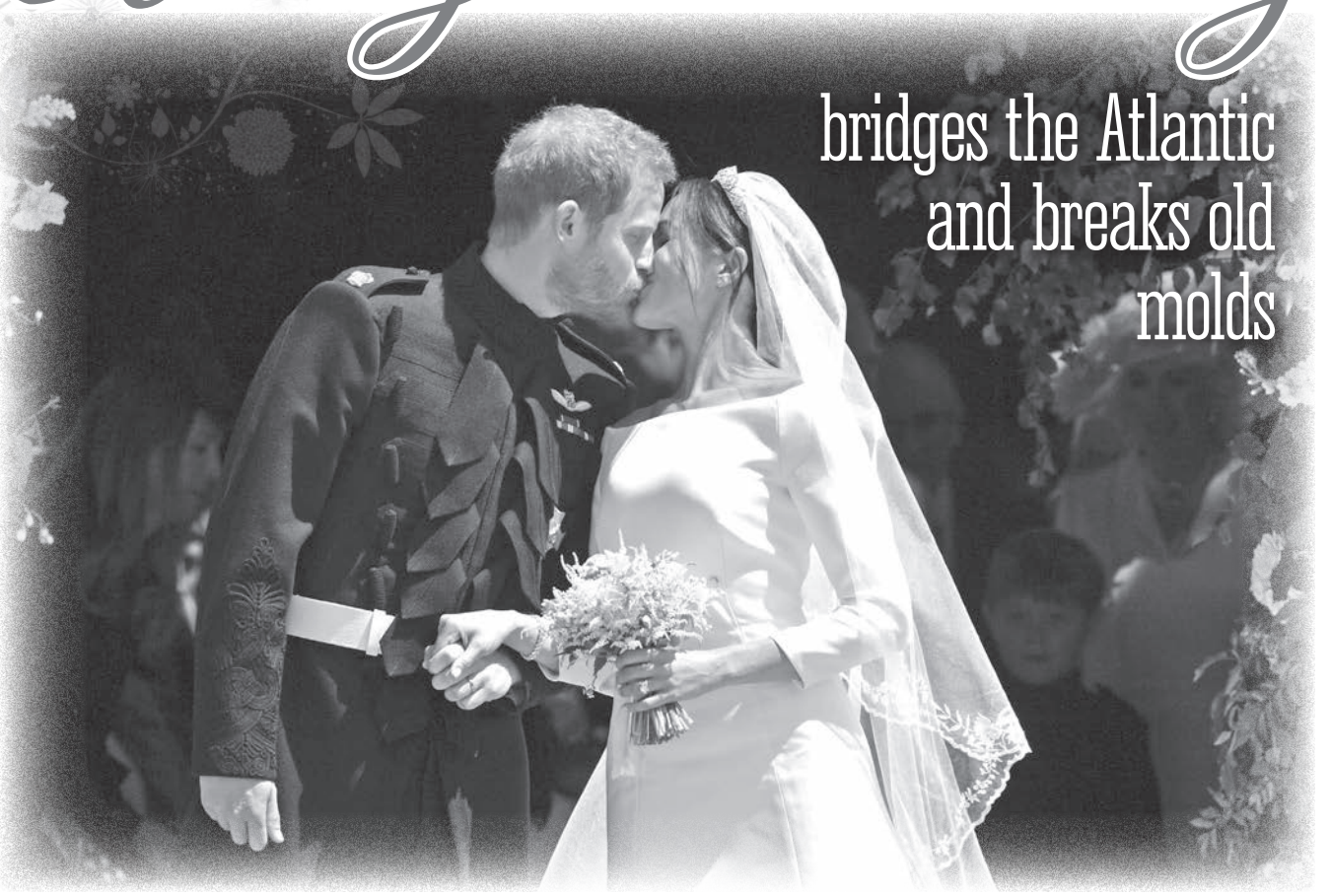
HEALTH IS WEALTH

Life & Style

A royal wedding bridges the Atlantic and breaks old molds



AP

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle leave after their wedding ceremony at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle in Windsor, near London, England, Saturday, May 19, 2018.

WINDSOR, England (AP)—The son of British royalty and the daughter of middle-class Americans wed Saturday in a service that reflected Prince Harry's royal heritage, Meghan Markle's biracial roots and the pair's shared commitment to putting a more diverse, modern face on the monarchy.

British reserve crisscrossed with American verve in a service that broke molds and created new ones. Choirboys and a gospel choir; the archbishop of Canterbury and the African-American leader of the Episcopal church; a horse-drawn carriage and flowers handpicked by the groom.

The wedding was a global event, thanks to Harry's status as a senior British royal and Markle's celebrity after starring on the U.S. television series "Suits" for seven years. Yet it seemed somehow so personal—and they both beamed like a couple who couldn't take their eyes off each other.

In a rousing sermon that highlighted a bit of a culture gap between outgoing Americans and reserved Brits, the Most. Rev. Michael Curry of the U.S. stirred the congregation from its fairy-tale reverie, quoting Martin Luther King in in a sermon that had some reaching for hankies and others shifting in their chairs.

"There's power in love," Curry said, his voice rising. "Love can help and heal when nothing else can. There's power in love to lift up and liberate when nothing else will."

He also quoted from the Song of Solomon in the Bible: "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it."

Joining the couple were a phalanx of celebrities, many of whom shared their wish to change the world. Oprah Winfrey, Idris Elba, Elton John, George and Amal Clooney, Serena Williams, James Corden and David and Victoria Beckham all watched from rows of seats in the Gothic masterpiece that is St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

The British weather was—gasp!—sunny and balmy, bathing the ancient stones of Windsor Castle in a beautiful spring light.

Many in the throng who waited outside also embraced the trans-Atlantic symbolism of the moment. Sheraton Jones, 22, who is from California but studying in Britain, described it as a melding of cultures.

"It was very touching, it's two different cultures kind of coming together, it was just so surreal," she said.

In the United States, this royal wedding was embraced for its diversity and inclusivity.

"This was black history," said Joy Widgeon, who attended a house party in Burlington, New Jersey, with her 6- and 8-year-old daughters. "African-Americans were front and center at the royal wedding. This was the first time, and hopefully it won't be the last. I am here for it."

Harry also invited buddies from his 10 years of military service—which included two tours of duty in Afghanistan—and from many of the charities he supports, which have focused on helping wounded veterans and encouraging a more open discussion of mental health issues.

To kick off the festivities, Queen Elizabeth II honored her red-headed, 33-year-old grandson with a new title: the Duke of Sussex, making the 36-year-old Markle the Duchess of Sussex.

The American actress drew raves for her sleek white silk boat-necked dress by U.K. designer Clare Waight Keller of the French fashion house Givenchy. Her sheer veil—down to her waist in front and billowing for what seemed like miles behind her—carried floral references to all 53 countries in the Commonwealth, countries drawn mostly from the former British Empire, headed by Markle's new grandmother-in-law, the queen.

Celebrities spice up royal wedding

BALTIMORE (AP) — Oprah Winfrey seemed a tad confused about her seating assignment. Serena Williams documented her journey to St. George's Chapel on Instagram. Idris Elba smiled broadly as he escorted his fiancee, model Sabrina Dhowre, who wore the obligatory hat.

They were among a slew of celebrities among the 600 guests Prince Harry and Meghan Markle invited to their wedding ceremony on Saturday, an event from which politicians were excluded.

Several of Markle's former co-stars on the USA Network paralegal drama "Suits" were invited. Among them were Gina Torres, Sarah Rafferty, Abigail Spencer, Rick Hoffman and Markle's on-screen hubby, Patrick J. Adams. "Pretty Little Liars" star Troian Bellisario, Adams' wife, was his plus-one.

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra, a friend of the bride's, strutted into the chapel in a light heather grey Vivienne Westwood pencil skirt and matching jacket with an asymmetric collar.

Tennis star Williams, accompanied by her husband, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, chose a blush, long-sleeve silk drape dress by Atelier Versace to go with her fascinator in pale pink, a hue also favored by Winfrey and others for the royal wedding.

Elton John, looking dapper in tails, did double-duty as a wedding guest and a performer at the luncheon reception hosted by Queen Elizabeth II. He sported pink eyeglasses as he arrived with husband David Furnish.

John was a close friend of the groom's late mother, Princess Diana, and played his hit "Candle in the Wind" at her 1997 funeral. Kensington Palace did not disclose which songs he chose for the wedding.

George and Amal Clooney, James Corden and David and Victoria Beckham also watched the nuptials on the grounds of Windsor Castle — Ms. Clooney in a bright yellow Stella McCartney dress and matching hat. It seemed her hubby walked just slowly enough to keep her out of peril in her heels on the castle's menacing cobblestones.

British singer James Blunt was in traditional tails, while Argentine polo player Nacho Figueras went for a double-breasted blue suit. He didn't forget the pocket square.

Actress Carey Mulligan shined in an all-over yellow floral print dress with a high neck and short sleeves from Erden. She was accompanied by husband Marcus Mumford of the Mumford & Sons band.

Joss Stone was also on hand, prompting BBC commenters to note that the singer, often barefoot on stage, wore shoes.

Oprah's longtime partner, Stedman Graham, said he could have joined her, but was happier giving a commencement address inside a gymnasium in Baltimore, where his advice to graduates just might extend to a certain American across the pond: Don't be concerned with how others define you, he said: "The only thing that matters is how you define yourselves."

Markle's bridal gown work of Givenchy's Clare Waight Keller

LONDON (AP)—Clare Waight Keller of Givenchy is the master British designer behind the sleek silk boat-necked gown and long billowing veil worn by Meghan Markle as she walked down the nave of St. George's Chapel for her wedding to Prince Harry.

The clean lines of the white dress highlighted Markle's smiling face Saturday as she sat at the altar of the chapel, holding Harry's hand as the sprawling train lay at her feet.

"It's brave to not have decorations and embellishments. What a strong fashion statement. It's modern and classic at the same time," Phillipa Lepley, a leading London bridal designer, told The Associated Press. "The overall look is very '50s and gorgeous!"

Waight Keller, the first female artistic director of French fashion house Givenchy, met Markle earlier this year, Kensington Palace said. It said Markle wanted a dress with an "elegant aesthetic, impeccable tailoring, and relaxed demeanor."

The dress featured no lace or embroidery, carrying a classic boat neckline, three-quarter length sleeves and an A-line skirt with a train measuring nearly 6 feet from the waist. Markle complemented it with a tiara, an embroidered cathedral-length veil, a bracelet and a small diamond stud earrings.

"The dress is simply beautiful in its classic simplicity," said Caroline Burstein, owner of Browns Bride, a top London bridal boutique. She called it "a nod to Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn and every iconic wedding we have witnessed throughout the 20th and 21st century. It's perfect for her and for the occasion they are celebrating."

The veil carried floral references to all 53 countries in the Commonwealth, the group of countries that roughly corresponds to the former British Empire and is headed by Markle's new grandmother-in-law, Queen Elizabeth II. The palace said workers spent hundreds of hours sewing the delicate flower designs into the veil, meticulously washing their hands every half hour to keep the silk tulle and threads clean.

The palace said, in addition to the Commonwealth flowers, Markle also selected two other plants: Wintersweet and, in a nod to her birthplace, the California poppy.

'Shoplifters' wins Palme d'Or, grand prize to Spike Lee

By JAKE COYLE and THOMAS ADAMSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
Director Hirokazu Kore-eda, centre, holds the Palme d'Or for the film 'Shoplifters' which was presented by jury president Cate Blanchett, left, jury members Kristen Stewart, second from right, and Lea Seydoux during the closing ceremony of the 71st international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 19, 2018.

A tumultuous Cannes Film Festival concluded Saturday with the Palme d'Or awarded to Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda's "Shoplifters," a tender portrait of a poor, impoverished family, while Harvey Weinstein accuser Asia Argento vowed justice will come to all sexual predators.

At the closing ceremony for the 71st edition of the French Riviera extravaganza, the Cate Blanchett-led jury selected one of the festival's most acclaimed entries, one hailed as a modest masterpiece from a veteran filmmaker renowned for his delicate touch. "Shoplifters" is about a small-time thief who takes a young girl home to his family; after seeing scars from abuse, they decide to keep her and raise her as their own.

While many speculated that the Cate Blanchett-led jury might award only the second Palme d'Or to a film directed by a woman, the most likely contender—Lebanese director Nadine Labaki's "Capernaum"—was instead given Cannes' jury prize. The film drew a rousing standing ovation at its premiere Thursday but less enthusiastic critic reviews for its tale of a 12-year-old boy living in poverty who sues his parents for bringing him into such a cruel world.

Spike Lee's "BlacKkKlansman," the highest profile American film in competition at Cannes, was awarded the grand prize. The film ignited the festival with its true tale of a black police detective who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan. Lee connected the film to modern day with real footage from last year's violent white supremacist march in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"I take this on the behalf of the People's Republic of Brooklyn, New York," said Lee, accepting his award.

The 12-day festival was the first since the downfall of Weinstein, who was for decades an annual fixture in Cannes. In the aftermath, this year's festival was shaken by debate over gender equality in the film industry and at Cannes. In a striking rally, 82 women—the same number of female filmmakers to ever be selected to Cannes competition lineup—stood on the Palais red-carpet steps in what Blanchett called "a symbol of our determination to change and progress."

Some changes were swift. Just days later, with Blanchett's jury looking on, Cannes' Artistic Director Thierry Fremaux signed a pledge to make the festival's selection process more transparent and promised other measures to improve the festival's record of including female filmmakers.

It was also a part of Saturday's closing ceremony. Argento raised a fist high on the red carpet. The actress has said Weinstein raped her at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997. (Weinstein has denied all accusations of non-consensual sex.)

"In 1997, I was raped by Harvey Weinstein here at Cannes. I was 21-years-old. This festival was his hunting ground," said Argento at the ceremony. "I want to make a prediction: Harvey Weinstein will never be welcomed here ever again."

"And even tonight, sitting among you, there are those who still have to be held accountable for their conduct against women for behavior that does not belong in this industry," said Argento. "You know who you are. But more importantly, we know who you are. And we're not going to allow you to get away with it any longer."

Following last year's Cannes, jury member Jessica Chastain was critical about the female representation on view in that year's films. Blanchett told reporters Saturday that her concerns were primarily behind the camera. Three of this year's 21 films in competition were directed by women.

"All of us, men and women alike on the jury would love to see more female directorial voices represented," said Blanchett. "I feel that there's a very strong drive within the organization of the Cannes Film Festival to make sure they explore, with a curious hat on, female perspectives. There perhaps weren't as many female driven narratives as I would have liked but there certainly some powerhouse female performances."

Met says it has evidence Levine abused or harassed 7 people

NEW YORK (AP)—The Metropolitan Opera said in court documents Friday that it found credible evidence that conductor James Levine engaged in sexually abusive or harassing conduct with seven people that included inappropriate touching and demands for sex acts over a 25-year period.

The Met fired Levine as its music director emeritus on March 12, citing evidence of misconduct, but it did not make public any details. Levine sued the Met three days later for breach of contract and defamation, which the opera company denies.

The Met filed its reply and counterclaims on Friday in New York Supreme Court in Manhattan. It is seeking $5.86 million in damages for what it called breach of loyalty.

Levine, who turns 75 next month, was the Met's music director and/or artistic director from 1976 to 2016 before the shift to an emeritus position. He was suspended on Dec. 3 after allegations of misconduct in reports by the New York Post and The New York Times. He has not been charged with any crime.

In its court filing, the Met claimed it learned during its investigation of improper conduct by Levine from 1975 to 2000. The Met identified the individuals only by number but described them as including a musician, an opera singer, an artist, two people who were 16 years old and a member of its Young Artists Program.

Levine's lawyers filed an answer to the Met's papers saying the company "has chosen to create sensationalized allegations ... all of which have no legal or factual basis whatsoever."

The Met said it found evidence of conduct that included discussion of pornography, groping, kissing and mutual masturbation.

In one instance, the Met accused Levine of inappropriately touching a musician starting in 1979 and six more times until 1991. In another 1985 incident, Levine is accused of groping and kissing an opera singer he was giving a ride home in his car against that person's will. Levine later placed the person in what prestigious program at the Met, the filings stated.

In 1986, Levine sexually abused a 16-year-old and arranged an estimated $50,000 in payments to the person through his brother, the filings stated.

The last incident described in the filings occurred in 1999 when Levine inappropriately touched a member of the Met's Young Artists Program "on his knees, legs and hands" and then the following year invited the musician to his dressing room to engage in sexual activity, according to Friday's court filings.

Levine's lawyers called them "only vague and unsubstantiated accusations of sexual misconduct supposedly engaged in by Levine decades ago, made by unidentified individuals, all in an attempt intentionally to smear Levine's name, reputation, and legacy, while at the same time making it difficult for Levine to defend himself with any specificity against anonymous accusations."

Hard work in gym pays off with arm-wrestling triumph

DEAR ABBY: I'm average, fitness-wise, and work in an office. My girlfriend, who is naturally athletic, has belonged to a gym for a year. Our two fitness paths collided when I was enjoying a coffee with her and her training partner, "Trixi," at her place one day.

Trixi made a muscle. When I complimented her on her impressive arm definition, she responded I should see my girlfriend's. When my girlfriend flexed, her bicep popped up so high my eyes bulged. Trixi then prodded me to flex. I didn't want to because I knew my muscle wasn't as developed. Trixi felt both our arms and declared mine softer. She then pushed us to arm wrestle. I'm 3 inches taller than my girlfriend, and I'm a man, so I thought I would win.

Anyway, two times on the right and once on the left, I ended up with the back of my hand securely pinned down to the table to their extreme amusement. I felt embarrassed because there was nothing I could do to stop her stronger arms driving me down.

The upshot is, I feel there has been a power shift in our relationship. My girlfriend will now teasingly flex when she wants something. She also enjoys challenging me in public. I have now been defeated in arm wrestling in front of her parents and a group of her cheering girlfriends. How should I adjust? Must I just accept her superior strength, tell her to tone down her showing off or get myself stronger at the gym?

OUTMUSCLED IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR OUTMUSCLED: A wise person asks his or her physician before starting a diet and/or exercise program. Then, if you get the go-ahead, go to a gym and gradually begin a regular exercise program. While you're there, ask a trainer to help you get started with the weights and machines so you can learn proper form and build yourself up rather than tear yourself down. If you do, it will not only increase your strength, but benefit you in other ways.

And by the way, your girlfriend must be very immature to deliberately emasculate you in front of her friends and family. By all means tell her to knock off the showing off at your expense because it's demeaning.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I'm wondering how to deal with friends who want to take advantage of my big-box store memberships. I don't mind helping out sometimes, but it seems like they are avoiding the cost of membership while reaping the benefits at my time and expense. They either ask if I mind picking up a particular item for them, or if I will take them so they can shop for themselves. That means spending half a day while they scrutinize every aisle and every item. Some of these friends are well off financially, so it isn't that they can't afford the membership. Am I wrong to feel imposed upon?

INDIANA SHOPPER

DEAR SHOPPER: You are only as imposed upon as you allow yourself to be. If it isn't convenient to take these people shopping, no law says you must. If you want to make sure a user never asks again, all you have to say is, "Great! And afterward you can take me out to lunch/dinner."

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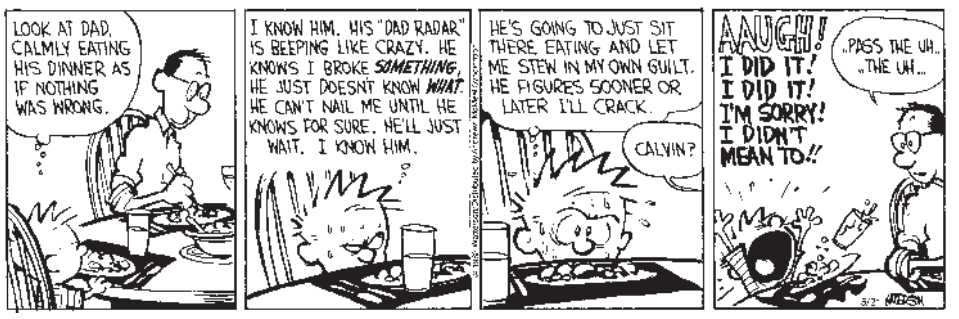
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

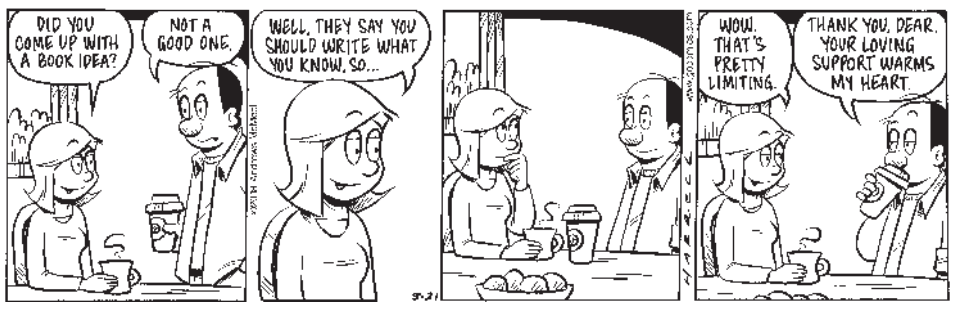

LOOK AT DAD, CALMLY EATING HIS DINNER AS IF NOTHING WAS WRONG.
I KNOW HIM. HIS "DAD RADAR" IS BEEPING LIKE CRAZY. HE KNOWS I BROKE SOMETHING, HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHAT. HE CAN'T NAIL ME UNTIL HE KNOWS FOR SURE. HE'LL JUST WAIT. I KNOW HIM.
HE'S GOING TO JUST SIT THERE, EATING AND LET ME STEW IN MY OWN GUILT. HE FIGURES SOONER OR LATER I'LL CRACK.
CALVIN?
AAUGH! I DID IT! I DID IT! I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO!!
..PASS THE UH.. ..THE UH...

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DID YOU COME UP WITH A BOOK IDEA?
NOT A GOOD ONE.
WELL, THEY SAY YOU SHOULD WRITE WHAT YOU KNOW, SO...
WOW. THAT'S PRETTY LIMITING.
THANK YOU, DEAR. YOUR LOVING SUPPORT WARMS MY HEART.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hacks with an axe
5 Science room
8 Dull pain
12 Jai —
13 Kitchen gadget brand
14 Three- — sloth
15 Split apart
16 Marine's motto, in brief
18 Place for a massage
20 "Jane Eyre" author
21 Chat
23 Long lunch?
24 Relating to the meaning of words
28 Squad
31 Mode lead-in
32 Sum
34 Caustic solution
35 Branch
37 School period
39 Club —
41 Appear
42 Orison
45 Chicken serving
49 Pasta wheat
51 Skin soother
52 "Wheel of Fortune" option
53 Buddy
54 Scepters
55 Frog's relative
56 "A mouse!"
57 Sports figure?

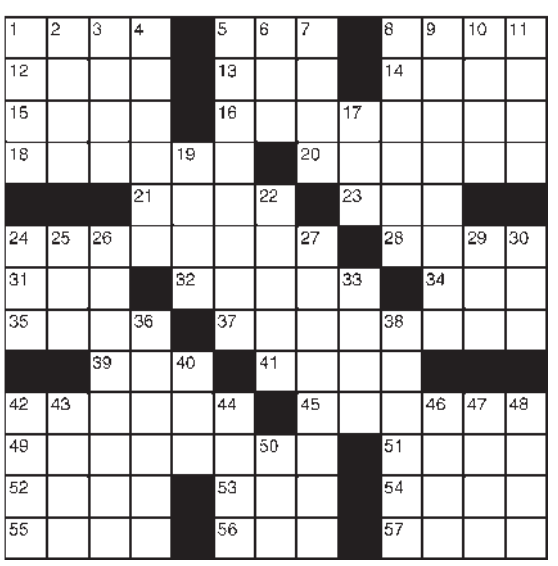
DOWN

1 Difficult
2 Lamb alias
3 Undulating
4 Nap
5 Silicon Valley city
6 Chopping tool
7 Broadway flop
8 Dined at a cafe
9 Midwestern farmland
10 Weight
11 Actress Falco
17 7, on older phones
19 Gasp for air
22 Flying toys
24 Erie Canal mule
25 Peyton's brother
26 Abba-inspired hit musical
27 Returned
29 Nay undoer
30 Sea, to Henri
33 Lusty look
36 Past
38 Fingerpaints
40 Costa — Sol
42 "Hey!"
43 Seized vehicle
44 Frost
46 Oodles
47 Pop
48 Try out
50 Scot's refusal

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	P	B	■	S	T	O	P	■	S	M	U	G
R	A	E	■	W	A	S	H	■	A	C	R	E
■	C	E	M	A	K	E	R	■	S	I	L	T
A	T	■	U	N	E	■	A	S	H	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	E	N	■	S	H	A	K	E	R
S	P	A	T	E	■	B	E	E	■	I	M	O
H	E	S	S	■	E	O	S	■	B	L	U	R
A	R	I	■	M	A	X	■	B	E	T	S	Y
Q	U	A	K	E	R	■	P	A	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	R	T	■	A	■	R	E	S	T
G	R	A	Y	■	H	A	T	M	A	K	E	R
■	O	■	A	■	E	L	I	A	■	E	M	I
G	E	E	K	■	N	O	N	■	D	I	M	■

Last Friday's Answer 05-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fairuza Balk, 44; Lisa Edelstein, 52; Nick Cassavetes, 59; Judge Reinhold, 61.

Happy Birthday: Speed it up and plan to get things done this year. Overdue changes at home, trips or educational pursuits you've been putting off should be a priority. This is a year of accomplishment and positioning yourself for a better future. Refuse to let emotions get in the way of a decision that will make you more comfortable. Your numbers are 1, 13, 19, 24, 32, 39, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Participate in events that will take your mind off work or domestic issues that are causing uncertainty. Remaining levelheaded and putting your energy into something productive will ease stress. A physical change will not turn out as hoped. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An unexpected situation will leave you at odds regarding how to react. Bide your time, be patient and do not make rash decisions. Overreacting, or dealing with someone who is, should be monitored closely. Discipline will be required. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Fix up your surroundings or make adjustments to your current living arrangements. Putting physical effort into bringing about positive change will encourage you to take care of new situations as well as unfinished business. Be honest and do what's necessary. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't limit what you can do because someone else is pressuring you to take on added responsibilities. Be blunt about what you are and are not willing to do, and make sure you leave time to pursue something that brings you joy. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Someone who is acting erratic will test your patience. Stay calm and go about your business. If you get into a dispute, the situation will quickly escalate, leaving you in a predicament that can ruin your productivity, not to mention your day. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't feel the need to share your personal feelings with anyone. Someone will try to pry into your affairs, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Use your intelligence and make changes that will stabilize your life. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* If you don't like something, change it. Sitting back and waiting for someone else to fix something will not solve the problem. Know what you want and take physical action to improve your position and your future. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stick close to home. Avoid getting into a discussion that could jeopardize your position or your reputation. Make changes at home that will make you feel more comfortable or will aid you in pursuing a creative project. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Check out the possibility of getting involved in something that interests you. Picking up information or skills that will help improve your position is favored. Someone will offer false information or make empty promises. Do your own research. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Look over your assets and liabilities. Property investments, moves or anything that will lower your overhead should be considered. A partnership looks promising, and making time for someone you love will enhance your day. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Home, family and positive personal changes are highlighted. Refuse to let a sibling or friend take advantage of your good nature. Keep in mind that charity begins at home. Offer suggestions but not your time or your money. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put more thought into how you earn your living and what you can do to make more money. A change will do you good. Talk to someone you have worked with in the past; a suggestion or opportunity will be offered. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, helpful and proactive. You are goal-oriented and social.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

				1	4		5	
	9			8	6			1
8		6	2				9	
2	7	8	4					9
9					1	3	7	5
	8				3	2		6
5			6	7			8	
	4		1	9				

Difficulty Level ★ 5/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	9	6	2	7	1	3	4	8
7	8	3	6	9	4	2	1	5
1	2	4	3	8	5	9	7	6
4	1	9	5	2	7	6	8	3
3	6	7	8	4	9	5	2	1
8	5	2	1	3	6	4	9	7
9	4	8	7	6	3	1	5	2
2	3	5	9	1	8	7	6	4
6	7	1	4	5	2	8	3	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/21

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BARBARA BUSH (1925-2018) **Solution: 9 letters**

M	B	R	I	G	H	T	I	F	O	R	P	N	O	N
R	P	I	E	R	C	E	Y	R	A	R	O	N	O	H
E	R	R	G	S	T	H	G	I	R	L	I	V	I	C
A	S	O	E	N	I	L	U	A	P	A	N	R	H	E
D	E	Y	L	K	S	S	A	X	E	T	I	A	C	E
V	R	C	L	E	L	T	Ⓜ	Ⓞ	Ⓜ	V	R	H	O	P
O	V	A	O	S	D	A	A	I	E	I	I	Y	K	S
C	I	R	C	K	E	M	W	R	T	N	H	D	N	N
A	C	E	H	A	R	J	I	Y	A	H	E	A	O	O
T	E	T	E	O	I	O	A	L	H	T	G	L	S	I
E	T	I	R	W	M	H	Y	S	L	T	R	T	N	T
N	U	L	B	T	D	N	U	W	I	I	O	S	I	A
N	T	I	E	A	A	B	E	J	E	N	E	R	B	N
I	S	F	R	M	A	R	V	I	N	N	G	I	O	O
S	A	E	T	S	R	I	F	Y	T	R	O	F	R	D

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Admired, Advocate, Astute, Bright, Bush, Charity, China, Civil Rights, College, Donation, Dorothy Walker, First Lady, Forty First, George, Herbert, Honorary, Jeb, John, Koch, Life, Literacy, Marvin, Millie, Mom, Neil, New York, Nonprofit, Oaks, Pauline, Pierce, Read, River, Robinson, Role, Service, Smith, Speech, Star, Tennis, Texas, Write

Last Friday's Answer: Boulevard

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JVA#18-001:
Location:
Closing Date: 05/30/18
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JVA#18-002:
Location:
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Saipan Tribune

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Dodgers sweep day-night doubleheader vs Nats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Matt Kemp had a pinch-hit, two-run double in the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers survived a sterling performance by Max Scherzer to beat the Washington Nationals 5-4 on Saturday night and sweep a day-night doubleheader.

Scherzer struck out 13 in seven innings, and Washington led 4-3 entering the ninth. But closer Sean Doolittle (1-2) allowed singles to Austin Barnes and Logan Forsythe, and Kemp then hit a line drive to the wall in left field to score them both.

Erik Goeddel (3-0) worked a scoreless eighth in his Dodgers debut after being acquired off waivers on Friday from Seattle Mariners. Kenley Jansen worked the ninth for his eighth save, and his second on the day.

The Dodgers used eight pitchers. Starter Rich Hill threw just two pitches before leaving with a recurrence of the blister on his left middle finger that has already put him on the disabled list twice this season.

In the first game, Ross Stripling (1-1) struck out a career-high nine in six strong innings and Max Muncy drove in two runs as the Dodgers won 4-1.

AP

Washington Nationals' Howie Kendrick is tagged out by Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman Logan Forsythe as he attempts to stretch a single into a double, during the seventh inning of the first baseball game of a doubleheader at Nationals Park, Saturday, May 19, 2018, in Washington.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 3

In Boston, Mookie Betts and Andrew Benintendi hit consecutive home runs in the fifth inning, and the Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles.

Benintendi added a two-run single and Rafael Devers a solo homer for the Red Sox.

Mets 5, Diamondbacks 4

In New York, Devin Mesoraco hit a tying, two-run homer through Citi Field's murky fog in the eighth inning, Wilmer Flores hit a game-ending sacrifice fly in the ninth and the Mets beat the Arizona Diamondbacks to win consecutive games for the first time in a month.

John Ryan Murphy hit a two-run homer and tied his career high with three RBI, helping Arizona open a 4-2 lead.

Braves 8, Marlins 1

In Atlanta, Sean Newcomb pitched six strong innings to win his fourth straight start, Johan Camargo and Ozzie Albies each drove in two runs, and the Braves topped the Miami Marlins.

Ender Inciarte went 3 for 4 and Freddie Freeman added a two-run homer in the eighth to help Atlanta win for the eighth time in 11 games.

Yankees 8, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Gary Sanchez hit two of the Yankees' five home runs, Gleyber Torres had a three-run shot and New York rebounded from a series-opening loss to pound the Royals.

Aaron Hicks and Giancarlo Stanton also homered for the Yankees, while Luis Severino (7-1) scattered three runs on eight hits and two walks over six innings.

Phillies 7, Cardinals 6

In St. Louis, Odubel Herrera homered and pinch-hitter Jorge Alfaro hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, sending the Philadelphia Phillies over the Cardinals.

Alfaro was scratched with right knee soreness after originally being in the lineup.

Indians 5, Astros 4

In Houston, Corey Kluber struck out 10, Michael Brantley and Yan Gomes hit home runs and Cleveland beat Houston.

Kluber made his 22nd straight start of allowing no more than three earned runs, breaking the team record set by Sonny Siebert in 1965.

Reds 5, Cubs 4
Cubs 10, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Ian Happ hit his second home run of the doubleheader, Jason Heyward tied his career high with four RBI and Jose Quintana allowed one hit in seven shutdown innings as the Chicago Cubs beat the Reds for a split.

In the first game, Billy Hamilton drew a bases-loaded walk from Justin Wilson (1-1) while batting against a five-man, drawn-in infield with no outs in the 11th inning.

White Sox 5, Rangers 3

In Chicago, Jose Abreu homered and had three hits, Lucas Giolito tossed six effective innings and the White Sox rallied from an early deficit to beat the Texas Rangers.

Abreu went 3 for 3 with a walk and two RBI.

Brewers 5, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Christian Yelich broke a tie with a solo home run in the top of the eighth, Milwaukee's bullpen pitched five scoreless innings, and the Brewers beat the Twins to take the first two games of the three-game series.

The Brewers moved to 7-2 on their 10-game road trip.

Giants 9, Rockies 4

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford got three more hits and drove in four runs as San Francisco ended a three-game skid.

Crawford reached on a bloop single in the second inning, had a two-run double in the third and hit a two-run homer in the sixth.

Athletics 5, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Chad Pinder hit his first career grand slam as Oakland rallied with five runs in the eighth inning.

Pinder's drive off Tyler Clippard (4-1) completed the Athletics' comeback from a 4-0 deficit.

Padres 6, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Clayton Richard allowed two runs in 7 1/3 innings, Christian Villanueva homered and drove in two runs, and the San Diego Padres beat the Pirates.

Richard (3-5) pitched into the eighth inning for a third straight start.

Rays 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Daniel Robertson homered for the second consecutive game and the Rays held on after Mike Trout's ninth-inning homer for their sixth straight victory over the Angels.

The Rays are back at .500 for the first time since the second day of the season after winning 18 of their last 26 games.

Rookie Wise joins Leishman for lead as wind blows at Nelson

DALLAS (AP)—The wind finally blew on the new Trinity Forest course at the AT&T Byron Nelson.

Aaron Wise wasn't rattled, not even by a bogey that dropped him into a tie for the lead on the final hole Saturday. Now the 21-year-old PGA Tour rookie is ready for another run at his first victory.

Wise shot a 3-under 68 to pull even with Marc Leishman, four shots ahead of Matt Jones and Kevin Na going into the final round.

It's not the first time Wise has been in this position, though. Two weeks ago, he finished tied for second at the Wells Fargo Championship, two shots behind Jason Day.

Besides, Wise has won at every level, including the 2016 NCAA individual title while helping Oregon win the team championship just before turning pro. He was the first player in eight years to pull that NCAA double.

"There's a little more pressure on it because there's more people and it's a bigger scene, but I felt like I did a great job of handling all that at Quail Hollow," Wise said. "Being my second chance at it, I feel like it's only going to be better than that."

Leishman shot 69 after setting a 36-hole tournament record previously shared by Tiger Woods. The 34-year-old Australian had a career-best 61 in the opening round.

Hometown star Jordan Spieth couldn't make a move from eight shots back, shooting par 71 and falling 10 strokes behind.

Wind gusted above 25 mph at times after two rounds of calmer conditions and lower scores on the treeless, links-style layout a few miles south of downtown Dallas. The Nelson spent the previous 35 years at a more conventional venue in suburban Irving.

One illustration of the struggle came late with the strong crosswind at the par-4 18th, where five of the top six on the leaderboard had bogey or worse.

Na (69) and Jones (68) had to settle for 13 under. Jimmy Walker shot 70 with a double bogey on the final hole that dropped him to 12 under, with Brian Gay, who bogeyed 18 for a 72.

Wise played in more wind than Leishman and most of the other leaders Friday when it kicked up in the afternoon, and still said Saturday's conditions were significantly different. And he still said it was fun.

"I love playing really firm golf courses because it brings a lot of thinking in,"Wise said. "I didn't have quite as many drivers as I had the last couple of days because it was firmer."

With one notable exception: his 402-yard drive on the downwind par-4 ninth. All Wise had left was a flip wedge on the 504-yard hole, and he made the 11-foot putt.

"It's pretty cool to be able to make decisions like that and kind of use my advantage, which is my driving when I can," he said. '"But you still got to play safe. This course has enough teeth where you can't just bomb driver everywhere."

Spieth was hoping for the teeth on one of his home courses, but couldn't take advantage of his experience with it. The Dallas native even admitted he's still struggling to figure out the greens.

The 24-year-old had three birdies and three bogeys and is in danger of going another year without surpassing his best Nelson finish—a tie for 16th when he was a 16-year-old high school junior in 2010.

Video Assistant Referees at World Cup

SWIRZERLAND (AP)—Technology will play a bigger role than ever before at this year's World Cup, and it's largely thanks to Frank Lampard's goal that wasn't.

FIFA, which sanctioned goal-line technology at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, has gone a step further this year. In Russia, Video Assistant Referees will review potential game-changing incidents at each of the 64 matches.

The use of technology in Brazil had been authorized after a round of 16 match at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa when Lampard, and just about everyone else, thought he scored an equalizer against Germany.

Only, the England midfielder didn't.

Trailing 2-0, England managed to claw one back through defender Matthew Upson. The revived England team then rampaged forward in search of the equalizer and Lampard shot hard from the edge of the penalty area. The ball struck the underside of the bar and television replays showed it bouncing a yard behind the German goal line.

The referee, however, waved play on, a blow that England failed to recover from, eventually losing 4-1.

Then-FIFA President Sepp Blatter soon apologized and reopened the debate over goal-line technology.

For the Germans, however, it was perhaps poetic justice. In the 1966 final between England and West Germany, Geoff Hurst's second goal had cannoned off the crossbar and adjudged to have crossed the line despite German protests. England went on to win that match 4-2.

LeBron, Cavaliers pound Celtics in Game 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—Before taking the floor, LeBron James stood in the hallway with his teammates outside Cleveland's locker room and pounded his chest with both hands.

The Celtics got thumped next.

James had 27 points and 12 assists, Kevin Love added 14 rebounds and the Cavaliers looked like a different team on their home court, tightening the Eastern Conference finals with a 116-86 victory in Game 3 over Boston on Saturday night.

Outplayed during two losses in Boston, the Cavs used a three-day break in the series to regroup and re-grip this series. With James leading the way, they built a 19-point lead in the first quarter, pushed it to 30 in the second half and overpowered the Celtics, who fell to 1-5 on the road in the postseason.

Any discussion of Cleveland's demise is premature. Kyle Korver made four of the team's 17 3-pointers, six players scored in double figures and the Cavs, who have spent the season seeking chemistry and cohesion, were connected defensively.

"Even when things broke down, we just covered for one another," James said. "We made them make extra passes. We made them make extra dribbles. We were flying around, and I just happened to be one of the guys on the floor that wanted to fly around as well."

Game 4 is Monday night before the series returns to Boston.

Jaylen Brown was in foul trouble all night and scored just 10 for the Celtics after averaging 23 in the first two games. Jayson Tatum scored 18 and Terry Rozier 13 for Boston, which couldn't match Cleveland in any aspect.

"They took it to us," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "Point blank: They just outplayed us."

Only 19 of a possible 300 teams have ever overcome a 2-0 deficit in the playoffs. James and the Cavs, who previously did it in 2007 and again in 2016 while winning the NBA title, took the first step toward a third comeback.

To return to the NBA Finals for the fourth straight year, the Cavs have to win four of five and re-write Boston's illustrious history. The Celtics are 37-0 when they win the first two games in a series.

The Cavs came in wanting to play faster and be more physical with the younger Celtics, who were the aggressors in Games 1 and 2.

Not this time.

"The toughest team sets the rules," Rozier said. "They came out aggressive from the jump and never looked back. We've got to play aggressive from the rip. Tonight, we were all over the place, playing too fast and doing things we didn't want to do."

The Cavs needed more from point guard George Hill after two poor performances (8 points, 1 assist) in Boston. Hill responded with a driving layup to start the game and drained three 3-pointers in the first quarter as Cleveland wasted no time taking control.

Hill finished with 13, J.R. Smith 1—they were outscored 41-3 in Game 2—and Cleveland's supporting cast played so well that James was only on the floor for 37 minutes.

Stevens was confident his team would play better on the road than earlier in these playoffs, but the Celtics were shaky early, committing four turnovers and shooting 2 of 10 while the Cavs opened a 27-11 lead.

James said earlier Saturday the fact he has twice rallied from 2-0 deficits in the postseason offered no relief.

"There's nothing about the playoffs that's comfortable until you either win it all or you lose and go into the summer," he said.

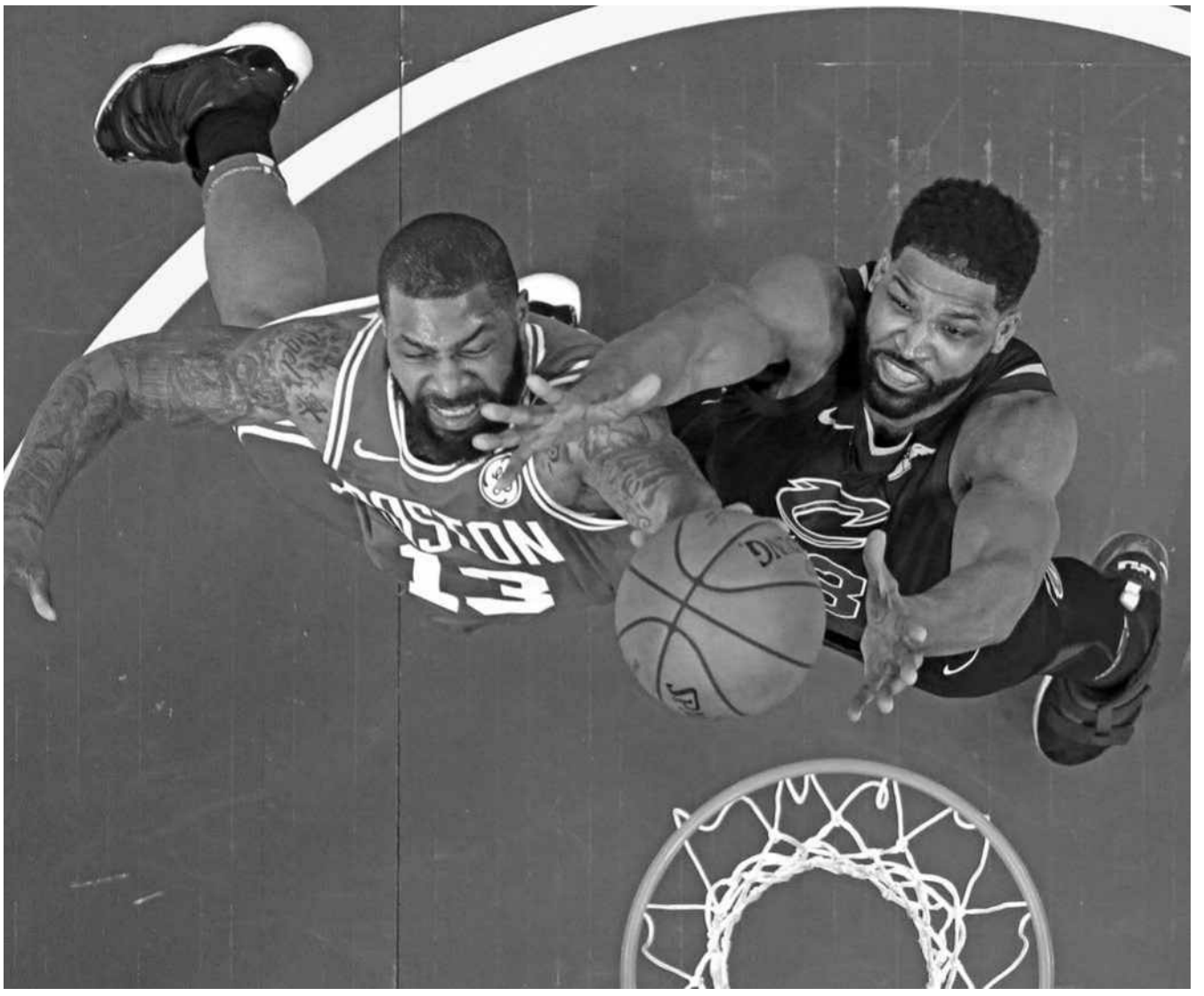
Summer might not be as close as it once seemed.

The Cavs focused their defense on slowing Brown, and it worked. He was 3 of 8 from the floor and never found his flow after getting two early fouls.

"They were denying me the ball, and when I did get it, it was in positions that I'm not comfortable in," he said. "Give credit to Cleveland. They were physical and we settled for jumpers too much."

The long layoff between Games 2 and 3 revived the Cavs.

"It was three days of stewing on Game 2," Korver said. "It probably did something good in us. It's frustrating to have to wait that long for another game. We were able to put in some new things on offense, too."



Cleveland Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson, right, and Boston Celtics' Marcus Morris reach for a rebound in the second half of Game 3 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals Saturday, May 19, 2018, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won, 116-86.

Warriors eager to get back on the court, respond from loss

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—One good beating per series is plenty for Draymond Green and Golden State.

The Warriors got it in Game 2 at Houston, and now the defending champions plan to do what they seem to do best: bounce back with brilliance.

As the Western Conference finals showdown shifts to Oracle Arena for Sunday's Game 3, tied at one game apiece, the Warriors have spent the past few days discussing their Game 2 troubles and what they're striving to do in order not to be dominated again.

It's time to play.

"I think we're at our best when we feel threatened," Green said Saturday. "Game 1 we felt threatened, we came out with a sense of urgency. Game 2 we maybe didn't feel as threatened and the sense of urgency wasn't there. I think you're allowed one of those a series. We've had our one, now it's time to lock in for the remainder of the series."

And for the Warriors that starts on the defensive end against Chris Paul, James Harden and Co., because when they get stops it allows Golden State to get going in transition and find open looks from 3-point range that weren't there during a 127-105 Game 2 defeat Wednesday night at Houston. That was largely because the Rockets had ample time to set their defense following made baskets.

Houston is making sure not to get too high from its impressive result. The Rockets lost Game 1, 119-106.

"Feels like Game 2 was a week ago now. That's how it is in the playoffs," Paul said. "I heard somebody say when you lose a game in the playoffs, you feel like you're never going to win again, and when you win, you feel like you're never going to lose again. We've done a great job all year staying even-keeled."

The task gets tougher for the Rockets at one of the league's most imposing venues.

Golden State has won an NBA record-tying 15 straight postseason home games, matching the Chicago Bulls' mark from April 27, 1990-May 21, 1991.

"The Warriors at Oracle are a different story for sure," Stephen Curry said.

Coach Steve Kerr spoke last week to former Warriors coach Mark Jackson about Golden State's resiliency over years now.

Just as they did in losing once in each of the first two rounds, the Warriors hardly looked strong in Game 2. Kerr insists that rebounding from a bad loss is hardly about coaching, patting his chest to note that his players take it upon themselves based on their passion to respond from defeat.

"It's a series. We're not going to knock them out in one game," Kevin Durant said. "Bad games happen throughout playoff series, throughout a season, throughout a career. So just move on, keep getting better and see what happens next game."

And the Warriors aren't worried about Curry rediscovering his shooting rhythm after making only two 3-pointers—one in each game—so far this series.

It might just take one to fall for the two-time MVP to start feeling it again. Or not even one.

"I only need one, that's all I need," Curry said. "Actually I might not need any because hopefully that first one that I shoot in Game 3 goes in, so I don't really need any."

Golden State, which realized it wouldn't go a record 16-1 like last postseason's remarkable run to a second title in three years, responded from defeats in the first round to San Antonio and then against the Pelicans in the Western Conference semifinals.

"It's not just this year it's the last four years," Kerr said. "It shows you the resilience of our team. I was talking to Mark Jackson last week and I said, `When I knew how tough this team was, I think it was 2013 when Mark was coaching and they lost at the buzzer to Denver on the road in Game 1, Andre Miller hit a shot. The Warriors came back and won Game 2. They lost a heartbreaker in the next round to San Antonio at San Antonio, they had an 18-point lead with about five minutes left. A devastating loss, came back and won Game 2 on the road. I remember as a broadcaster watching those two games that showed what kind of guts these guys have. Mark agreed. We've both been blessed to coach the group. It's not something that you coach, it's just something that's in them. Steph, Draymond, Andre (Iguodala) and Klay (Thompson), those are guys who have been here for a while, so then you add KD to that, a guy who's seen everything in the playoffs. We've got a pretty resilient group."

Mike D'Antoni knows what his Rockets are up against now that the series shifts to the Warriors' imposing home court.

"We always talk about having a short memory, especially in bad times, but you have to have a short memory also in good times. Play with the same desperation. Play with the same force that we played offensively and defensively, knowing that they'll have more of a force on their side," D'Antoni said. "But we have to control what we can control, and make sure we're aggressive."

Saipan Vegas, Ol'Aces Extreme down Warriors II

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas and the Ol'Aces Extreme earned contrasting victories against NSA Warriors II in the boys U18 division games in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces Extreme outclassed the Warriors II, 43-37, in a make-up match last Saturday, while earlier last week, Saipan Vegas routed the same team, 49-29.

Saipan Vegas held the Warriors II to two field goals and 5 points in the first quarter to take control of the game and never looked back. Rocco Garde scored the Warriors II's first basket, while Mark Norita made the 3 other points, but the entire team was outgunned by Albert Atan, who logged 8 markers in the opening quarter for their 12-5 advantage.

The lead ballooned to double figures in the second canto, 25-11, as the Warriors II continued to struggle offensively. Saipan Vegas went on to keep its safe distance in the second half for the 20-point winning margin.

In last Saturday's make-up game, the Ol'Aces Extreme withstood the Warriors II's rally in the fourth quarter to notch the 6-point victory.

The Ol'Aces Extreme was on top by 15 at the end of the third period, 38-23, when four Warriors II's players teamed up in the fourth quarter to threaten the former. However, the double-digit lead in the penultimate canto gave the Ol'Aces Extreme enough cushion, while Carlos Elchico and Eric Kiser scored one basket each to save the day for their team.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Vegas' Greg Deleon Guerrero, right, eludes the defense of the NSA Warriors II's J.J. Jones during the fourth quarter of their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Meanwhile, the 670 Sonics XVI edged the 670 Sonics XVIII, 55-54, in the other make-up game last Saturday.

Christopher Sablan drilled the 670 Sonics XVI's last 3 markers to help his team pull off the close win. Sablan, who was held to one field goal and two free throws in the first three periods, tallied 7 markers in the final canto, while Aldrin Dancel also stepped up in the fourth frame, logging 6 points,

Browns send CB Taylor to Cardinals for 2020 draft pick

CLEVELAND (AP)— Jamar Taylor's trade to Arizona is official.

Cleveland traded another of their starting quarterbacks to the Cardinals on Saturday for a sixth-round draft pick in 2020. The teams agreed to the swap on Friday and had to work out final details before it was announced.

The Browns previously shopped Taylor and finally worked out a deal with the Cardinals, who will likely start him opposite star Patrick Peterson.

Taylor's departure seemed destined when the Browns signed several defensive backs in free agency and selected Ohio State cornerback Denzel Ward with the No. 4 overall pick in the draft.

Taylor started 15 games last season on the other side of the field from Jason McCourty, who was traded to New England in March for a 2018 seventh-round pick.

The 27-year-old Taylor was acquired by the Browns in 2016 from Miami. He had three interceptions in 2017.

In New York, the Jets have signed defensive lineman Nathan Shepherd, the team's third-round draft pick out of Fort Hays State, to a four-year deal worth the slotted amount of $3.4 million.

The 6-foot-4, 315-pound native of Ontario, Canada, was the first Division II player selected in this year's draft.

Shepherd began his college career at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia in 2011 and became a starter after redshirting his freshman season. He then left school for financial reasons and worked various jobs for the next two years before walking on to Fort Hays State's team in Kansas.

He was the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association defensive player of the year as a senior and finished his three-year career at Fort Hays with 168 tackles, including 27 for loss, and 10 sacks.

In Colorado, John Elway has changed his mind about adding another quarterback to the Denver Broncos' roster.

The Broncos signed undrafted free agent Nick Stevens of Colorado State on Thursday, three weeks after Elway said he wouldn't bring in a fourth passer for offseason workouts.

After bypassing QBs in the NFL draft last month, notably Josh Allen and Josh Rosen with the fifth overall pick, Elway said he was satisfied with the group he had.

Free agent Case Keenum was declared the starter when he signed with Denver in March and last month Elway said Paxton Lynch and Chad Kelly will compete for the backup role this summer.

"We are not going to bring another one in for OTAs," Elway said on April 28 after wrapping up his 10-member draft class without adding another quarterback.

Yet, for the second consecutive year the Broncos have added a local QB.

OL'ACES

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made a layup off their opponent's error.

However, Jan Travilla scored 8 unanswered points in the next three minutes and change to spark Fiesta Resort's fightback. Travilla had an and-1 play against Eleina Santos and then followed it up with a jumper as her behind the back dribble caught the Ol'Aces defender flatfooted, while the former's last basket in that surge came from downtown.

With Fiesta Resort inching closer, Ol'Aces coach John Santos sued for time and a point-blank shot from her younger daughter Annalei somehow eased the pressure from their team, as they led, 39-31, with 5:14 remaining on the clock.

However, Fiesta Resort refused to buck down and again won the next exchange, 9-2, to move within one, 40-41, with 2:10 left in the rubber. Nana Watanabe contributed 4 points in that rally, Madi Alegre converted a 3-point play, and Krizel Tuazon's undergoal stab cut the deficit to a hair.

Tuazon then had a chance put Fiesta Resort on top for the first time since their squad took a 2-0 lead when she grabbed the rebound off a miss from Travilla, however the former overshot her mark. The Ol'Aces finally controlled the board, but also faltered on their next offensive set, while Travilla muffed another shot on the other end with the ball going over the board—an automatic violation that returned possession to the Ol'Aces.

After Fiesta Resort's infraction, the Ol'Aces went for a quick inbound and Eleina spotted Pangelinan sprinting to their frontcourt and made the touchdown pass. Pangelinan went on to hit the dagger, as two Fiesta Resort defenders failed to chase her.

The fastbreak basket was Pangelinan's lone field goal in the exciting game and gave the Ol'Aces more breathing room, 43-40, 1:07 left on the clock. The scores remained as the opposing teams exchanged turnovers before Eleina was fouled on her way to the basket and canned both charities for their 45-40 advantage, down to the final 53.4 seconds of the match.

Time pressured, Fiesta Resort gambled on attempting from downtown and missed twice, while Tuazon only had a split, allowing the Ol'Aces to remain in front. The Ol'Aces then tried sealing the win with a fastbreak layup from Fernandez, but the already decided match became intense anew when Cassandra Camacho gave up a hard foul on former.

Camacho was whistled for an unsportsmanlike foul, handing Fernandez a pair of free throws and the possession back to the Ol'Aces. Fernandez went 2-for-2 to peg the final score, as the Ol'Aces dribbled down the last 2.5 seconds of the tension-field game.

Earlier in the closing minutes of the third quarter, emotions ran high, as Eleina threw the ball on Watanabe after they collided at the backcourt. Eleina received the inbounded pass from her teammate and Watanabe reached in, trying to steal the ball, but rammed into the Ol'Aces quarterback in the process. Eleina, who later argued with the referee that she was hit by Watanabe's foot, went down and as she started to stand up, she picked up the ball and threw it to Fiesta Resort guard, who then approached the former, but the referees quickly stepped in, preventing the intense situation from further escalating. Then, just when everyone thought things were already back to normal, Annalei and one player from Fiesta Resort started to shove each other and exchanged words. Fortunately, officials pacified them and in the end only Eleina was slapped with a technical foul for throwing the ball on Watanabe.

Travilla missed the technical free throw and the Ol'Aces managed to keep the double-digit lead at the end of the third canto, 35-23, forcing Fiesta Resort to make one final push in the fourth and fell short.

Ol'Aces 47— E. Santos 17, Fernandez 13, A. Santos 11, Pangelinan 2, Villagomez 2, Quincy 2.

Fiesta Resort 41 7— Travilla 12, Watanabe 10, Tuazon 7, Alegre 6, Alferos 2, Camacho 2, Espinosa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 23-17, 35-23, 47-41.

AFC

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Cabaobas and Monthep were among the 96 children in the 6 and 7 years old age group that participated in last weekend's AFC Grassroots Football Day, learning the basics of the sport while having fun at the event.

"It was a great turnout. Actually, we did not expect to have a huge number of participants, but through the help of the schools, the parents, and clubs, and other volunteers, we're able to have a lot of kids today. We're also happy that we have children who are joining for the first time or trying the sport for the first time," NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said.

Anela Pangelinan was one of the first-timers and her mom, Maribel, was there to take video footages of this milestone.

"I love seeing here enjoying what she does . I would want her to be more active, get out and play more, instead of staying at home and playing with her gadgets. Hopefully, this experience will encourage her to continue playing," Maribel said.

Gene Weaver was also among the adults who watched how their kids enjoyed the various activities last weekend.

"It was nice to hear from my grandson, Leighton, saying that he had fun doing the activities. Also, at this time and age when most of the kids are into gadgets and other electronics, it's very important to keep them active by getting them involved in sports and other activities outdoor," Weaver said.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School's Tawny Barcinas, one of the volunteer coaches at the event, said seeing the smiles on the children's faces and how they enthusiastically participated in every activity, made the long hours they spent at the field worth it.

"The kids are very much into it. They are so excited and are eager to learn and try every activity," Barcinas said.

Gavin Rogolifoi, one of the participants in the event, said he liked the shooting the obstacle course because he can practice his shooting skills and play at the same time. Other activities NMIFA lined up were the small sided game, treasure hunting, goal small sided game, hit the coach, and hit the cones.

Meanwhile, NMIFA president Jerry vowed to keep holding grassroots events in the CNMI. "We will continue our commitment and focus in our grassroots program because we want to have as many young children as we can get involved in the sport. We are aiming for a sustainable program and one way to do that is promote the sport among our young generation. I am very happy that today, a lot of children and their supportive parents showed up and enjoy the activities," Tan said.

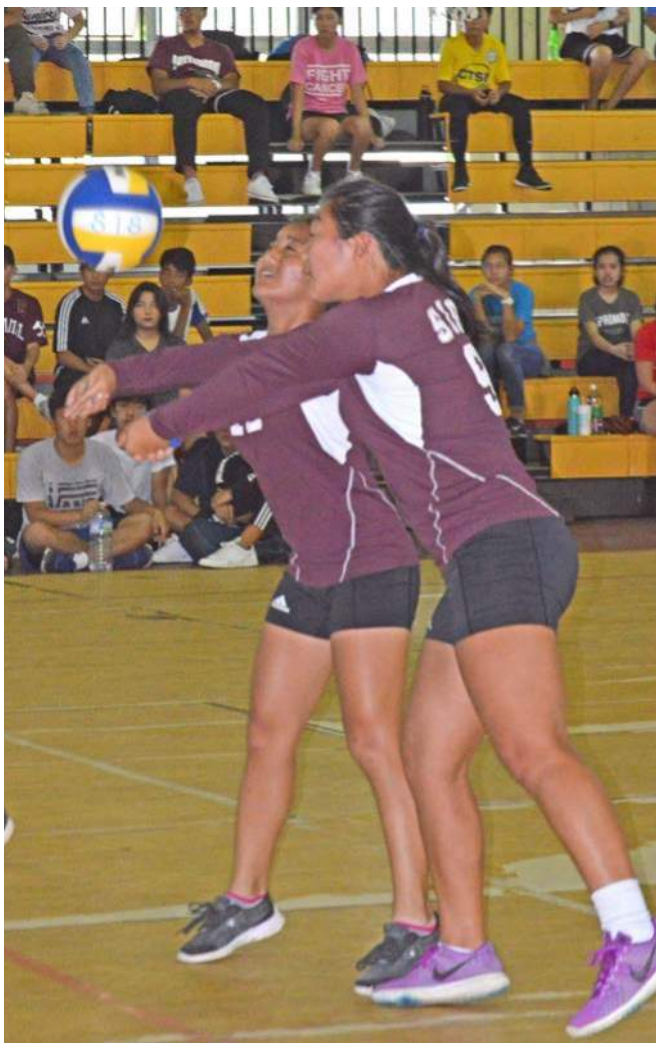
He added that playing soccer or joining similar activities is important to one's health and well-being.

"Playing any sport, not only soccer, has great health benefits. Also, sports instill discipline to our children and help them learn teamwork and these two characteristics will help them succeed in life later. We will continue to provide similar opportunities to ours kids," the NMIFA head said.

GCA vs SIS in High School Volleyball Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Maria Gregoire serves against Grace Christian Academy during the girls high school finale of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League held early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

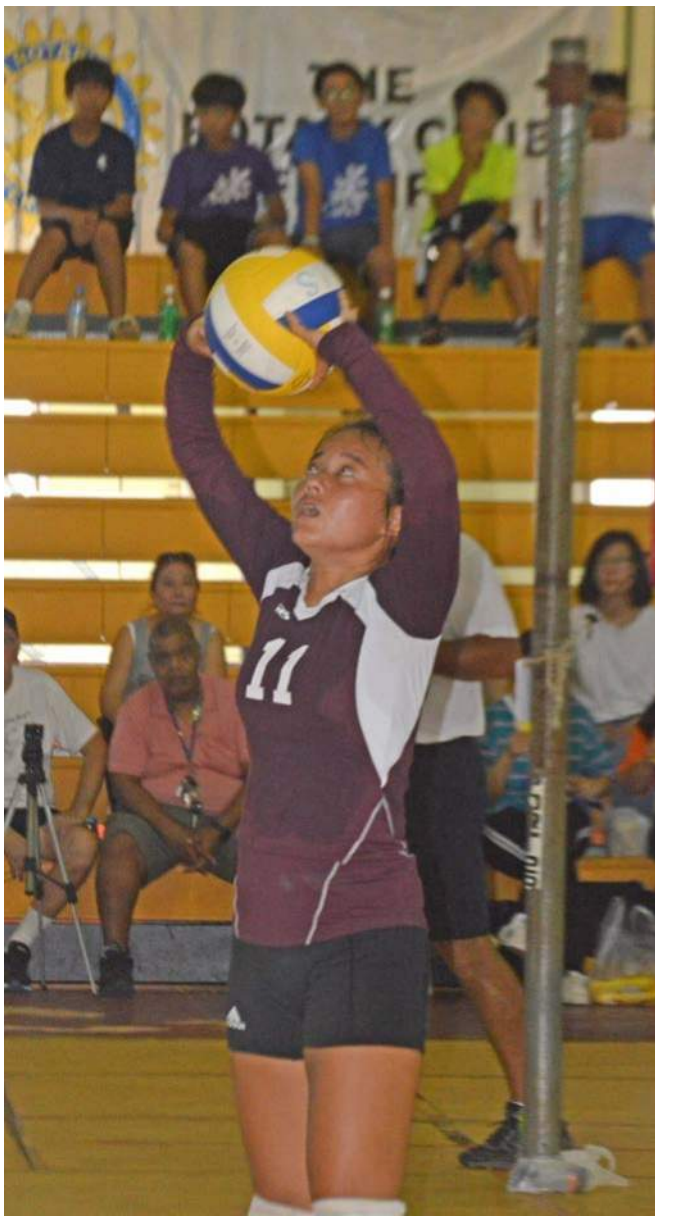


Two Saipan International School players go for a return.

Grace Christian Academy's Sunny Woo, right, hits the second ball, while teammate Jasmine Phan looks on.

Saipan International School coach Mili Saiki huddles with her players during a timeout.

Grace Christian Academy's Karena Torres tosses the ball.



Saipan International School's Malika Miyawaki tosses the ball to set up Julia Ishikawa for a spike.

Grace Christian Academy's Kimmy Dilse serves in the deciding third set.

Grace Christian Academy's Jasmine Phan, left, returns to Saipan International School.

Dodgers sweep day-night double-header vs Nats

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Sports

LeBron, Cavaliers pound Celtics in Game 3

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Ol'Aces survive Fiesta Resort

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces weathered Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's fourth-quarter storm to escape with a 47-41 victory in the deciding Game 3 of their title series in the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jaime Pangelinan made a rally-halting basket in the home-stretch, while Eleina Santos and Alliyah Fernandez drilled two free throws each to deliver the championship to the Ol'Aces, who completed their recovery in the short series after losing Game 1 in overtime, 52-54.

The Ol'Aces, who tied the series after dominating Fiesta Resort in Game 2, 50-39, seemed headed for another easy win in the rubber when they posted their biggest lead at 37-23, after Fernandez

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces Eleina Santos, second left, drives past Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Cassandra Camacho during the third quarter of the deciding Game 3 of their title series in the women's division of the 2018 MIBF Island-wide Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

AFC Grassroots Football Day a hit

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

First grader Jasper Cabaobas enjoyed last Saturday's AFC Grassroots Football Day so much that he already wants to sign up with a club to continue playing.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Children participate in the treasure hunting activity at the AFC Grassroots Football Day held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

"I like what we did today. I had so much fun and I would like to play again," the Green Meadow School student said.

"You have to sign up in a club to play and learn new things," Koblerville Elementary School's J.J. Monthep answered as the two took a breather from the fun and games at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Cabaobas promised his new found friend he will register and they headed back to the pitch to try another activity designed by the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Football Association in support of the Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned event.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two participants in the AFC Grassroots Football Day battle for the ball.

Bears stay perfect in second round

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears have yet to drop a game in the second round of the regular season, as they notched another easy win in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last week Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bears shut down the Mariners last Wednesday, 10-0, earning the victory after only seven innings via mercy rule. The win was the third in the second round and No. 11 in 12 games for the Bears, keeping the team in the lead in the 10-squad field. The Mariners fell to a 7-5 mark.

Jose Lizama pitched 6.2 innings for the Bears and allowed only five hits. A.J. Lizama relieved him at the bottom of the seventh inning and the latter got the quick first strike on third batter Jon Villagomez, leaving Kainoa Wanket and Nate Guerrero on second and first, respectively. The Bears closer then walked Ton Tenorio to load the bases and the three Titanium runners were stuck there, as A.J. fanned Nate Smith and Pat Tenorio to end the match.

Fred Songao went 2-for-4 for the Bears and though he failed to score a single run, he made three RBIs—two-run single in the second inning and an RBI single in the fifth. Lizama, before taking over the mound in the last inning inning, reached two times, posted two RBIs, and was perfect at the plate, 3-for-3. Catcher Virgil Secharmidal was 3-for-5 and scored three runs and one RBI.

Meanwhile, Titanium also made short work of the Indians, cruising to a 17-0 triumph after only five innings in last Tuesday's match.

Jerald Cabrera hit 2-for-3 for Titanium and had three runs and three RBIs. Joe Palacios was only 1-for-4 at bat, but his two-run triple at the top of the fifth inning highlighted Titanium's strong finish as it scored six runs in that period—four earned.

With the victory, Titanium improved to a 7-5 record, while the Indians dropped to a 1-11 mark and are still at the bottom half of the team standings.